

STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA

ART: KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA



SPICE & WOLF

VOL. 9

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

Lawrence

A clever young merchant. Traveling in search of Holo's homeland of Yoitsu.



Holo

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.

Col

A boy saved by Lawrence at the river checkpoint. A naive but clever lad.



Eve

A mysterious merchant woman. Normally hides her face and dresses like a man.

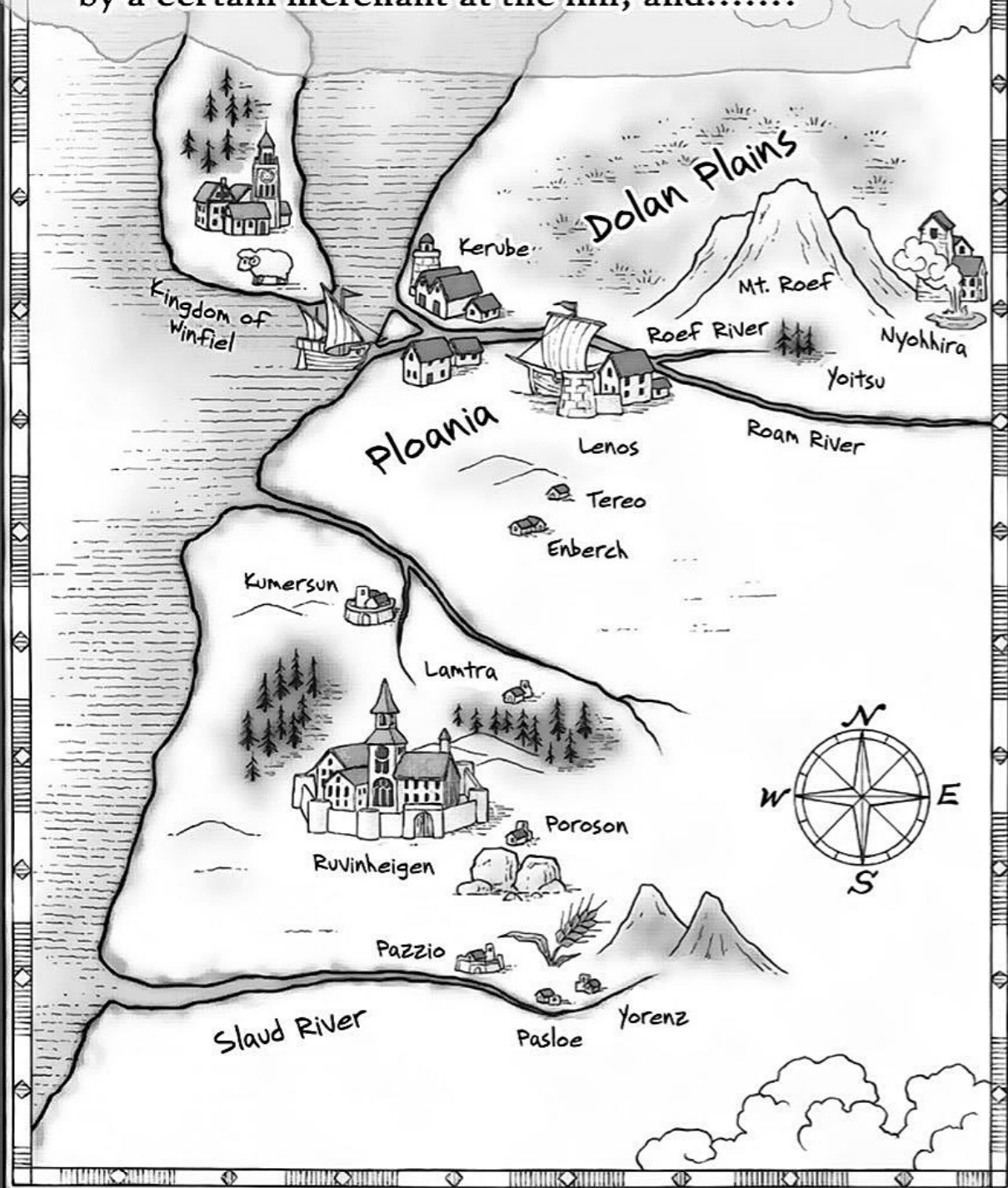
Kieman

The Kerube branch chief of the trade guild that counts Lawrence as one of its members. A cool-headed, canny businessman.



Introduction

In search of the forest of Yoitsu, Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo continue their travels. Avoiding an unstable situation in the town of Lenos, they proceed downriver toward the port town of Kerube. Along the way, they hear from a boatman about a forbidden book that tells of how to strip-mine a mountain bare. Lawrence and Holo decide to seek out the text to protect Yoitsu. Setting out to gather information in Kerube, Lawrence is approached by a certain merchant at the inn, and.....?



SPICE & WOLF

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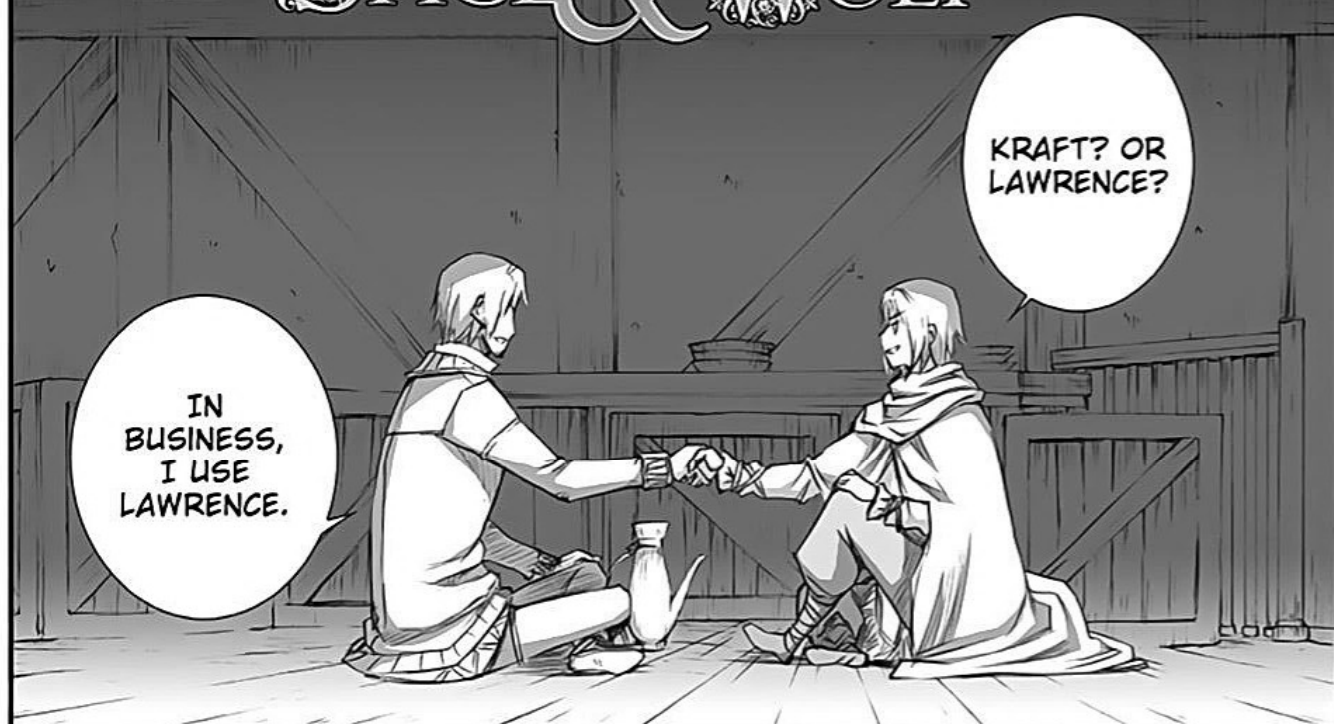
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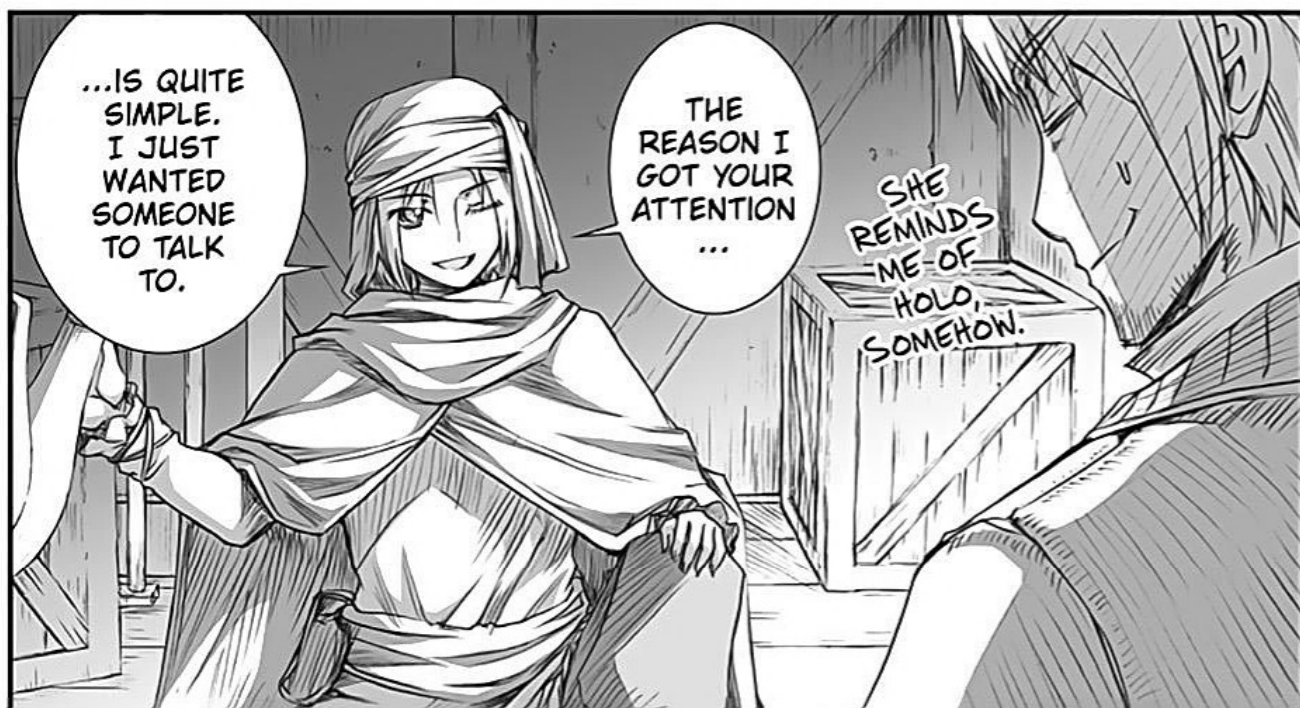
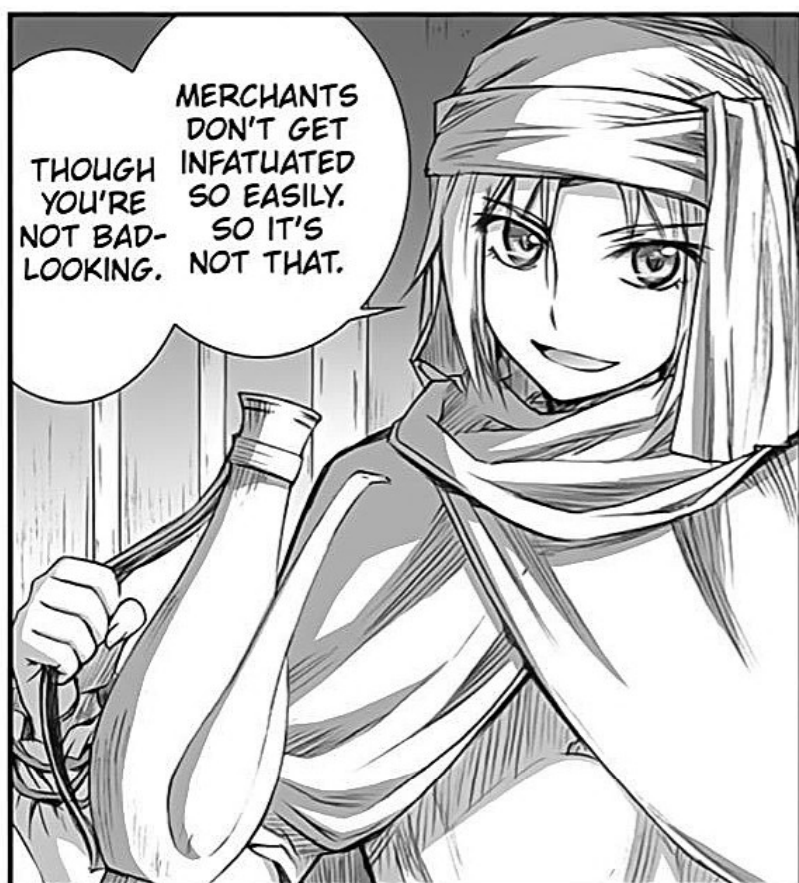
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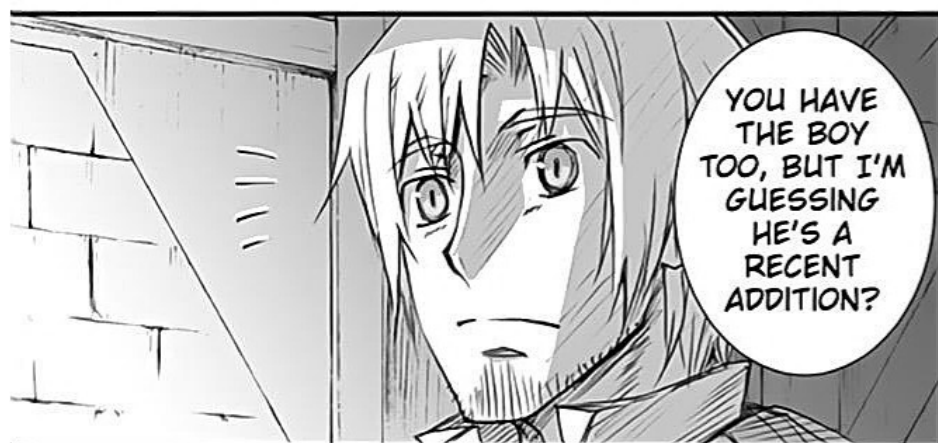
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SPICE & WOLF



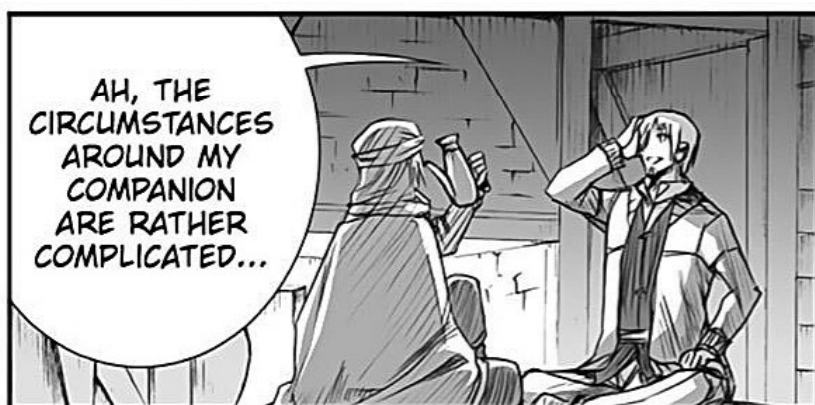




YOU HAVE
THE BOY
TOO, BUT I'M
GUESSING
HE'S A
RECENT
ADDITION?

HE'S
GOT A
GOOD
EYE FOR
PEOPLE.

THE
IMPORTANT
THING...IS
THAT OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU.

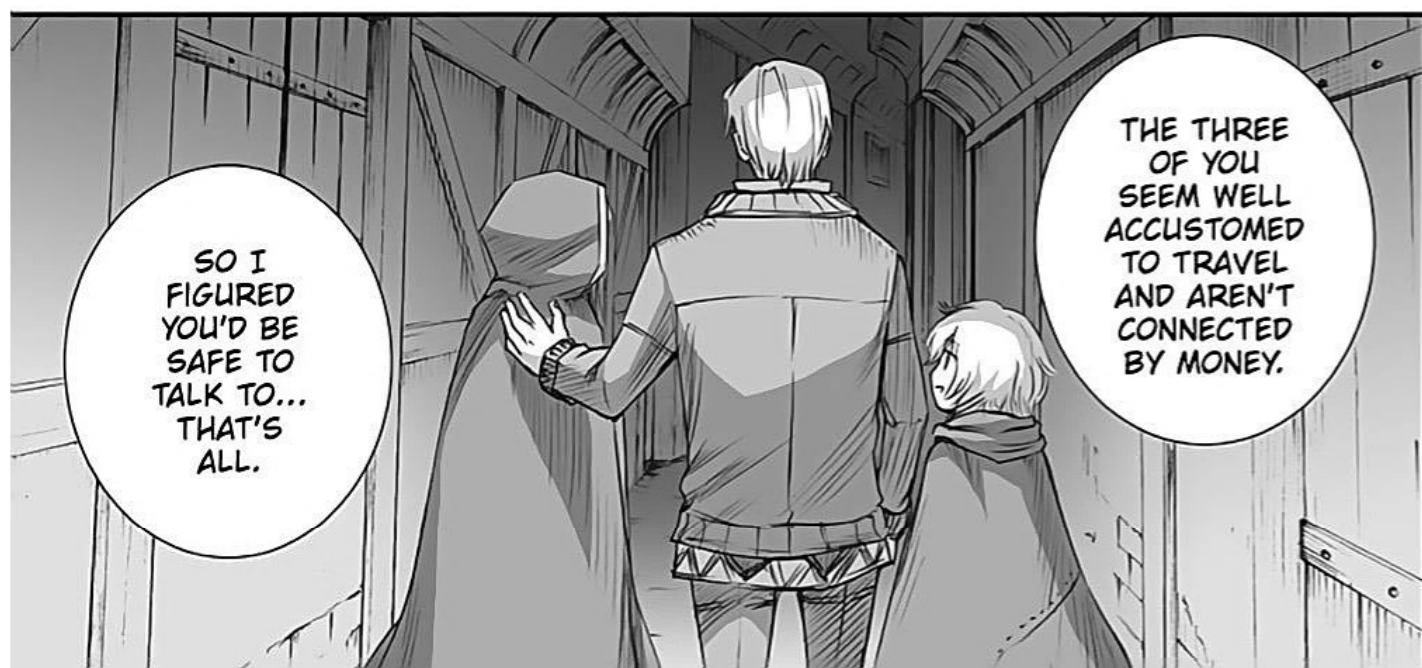


AH, THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
AROUND MY
COMPANION
ARE RATHER
COMPLICATED...



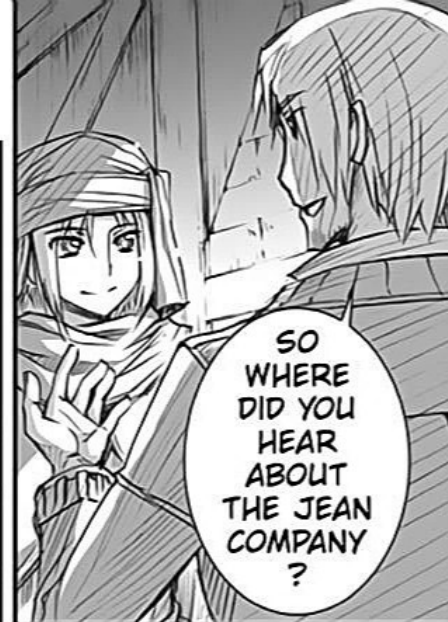
I'VE NO
INTENTION
OF PRYING.

THAT
AND YOUR
CHARMING
TRAVELING
COMPANION.

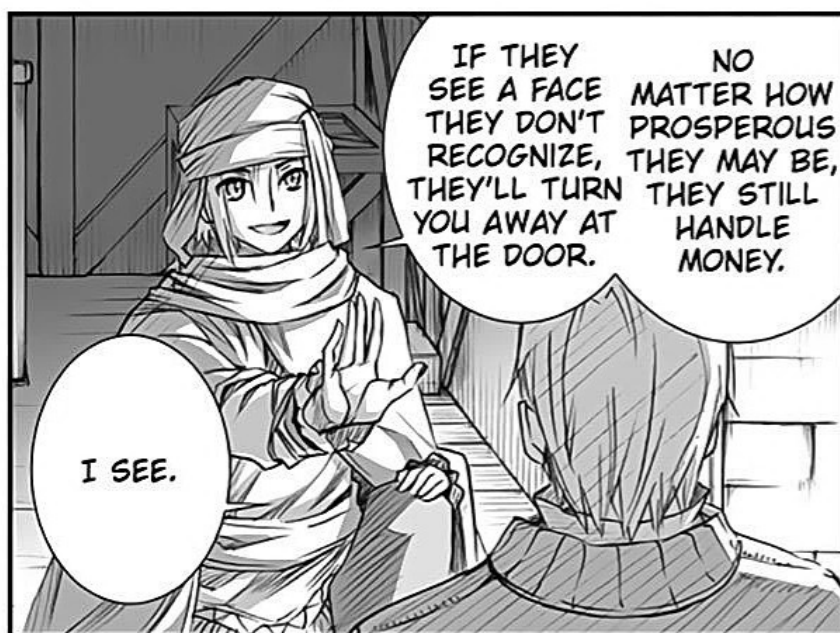
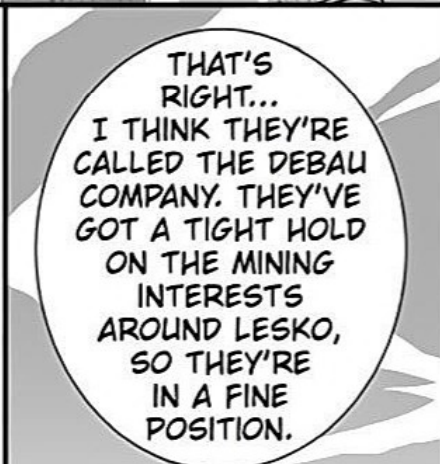
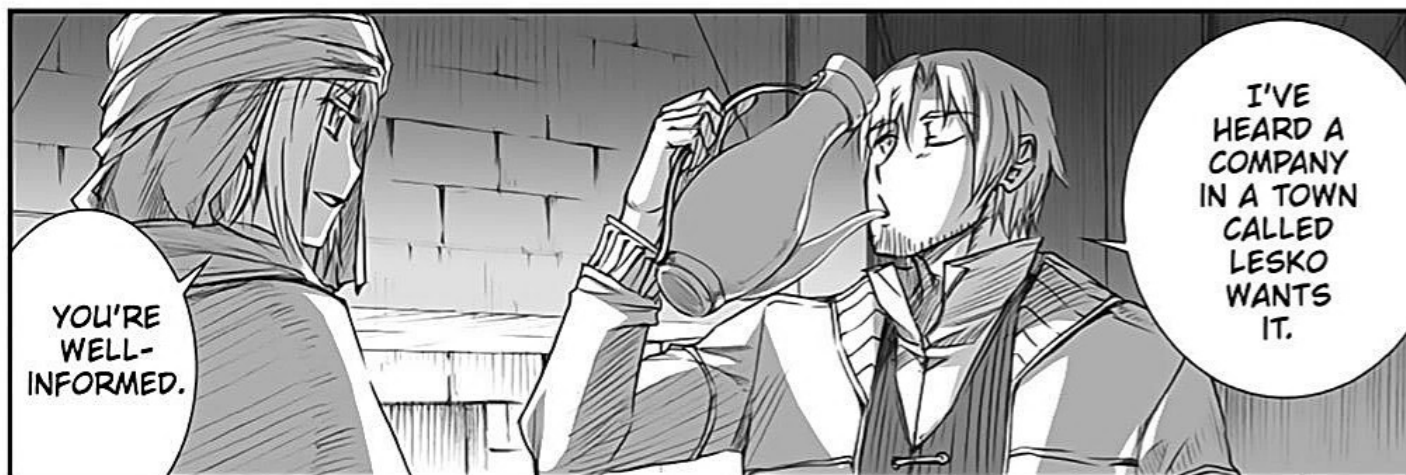


SO I
FIGURED
YOU'D BE
SAFE TO
TALK TO...
THAT'S
ALL.

THE THREE
OF YOU
SEEM WELL
ACCUSTOMED
TO TRAVEL
AND AREN'T
CONNECTED
BY MONEY.









I DEAL
WITH THE
JEAN
COMPANY
FROM TIME
TO TIME.

I'LL
WRITE YOU
A LETTER
OF INTRO-
DUCTION.



AREN'T
YOU A
FUNNY
FELLOW?



I WAS
THINKING
I'D USE
THAT
ANGLE.

THEY'RE
LOOKING
FOR A BOOK
WITH A HUGE
REWARD ON
IT, THOUGH.



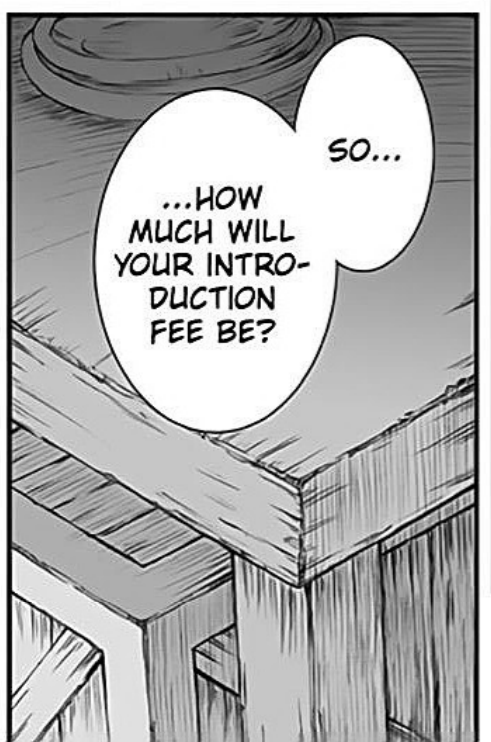
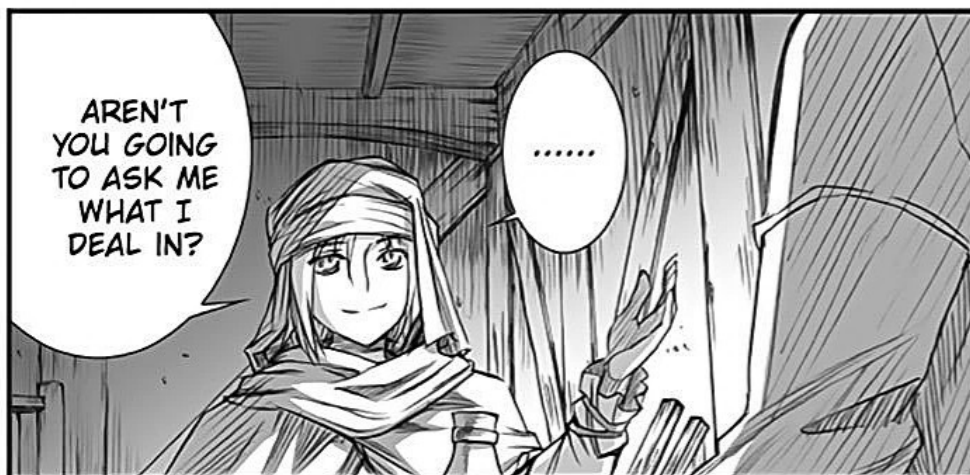
IT'S SO
SUSPICIOUS
THAT IT'S
STRANGELY
BELIEVABLE.

A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT
CALLING ON
A COMPANY
ABOUT THE
BOOK WITH A
WOMAN AND
CHILD IN
TOW.

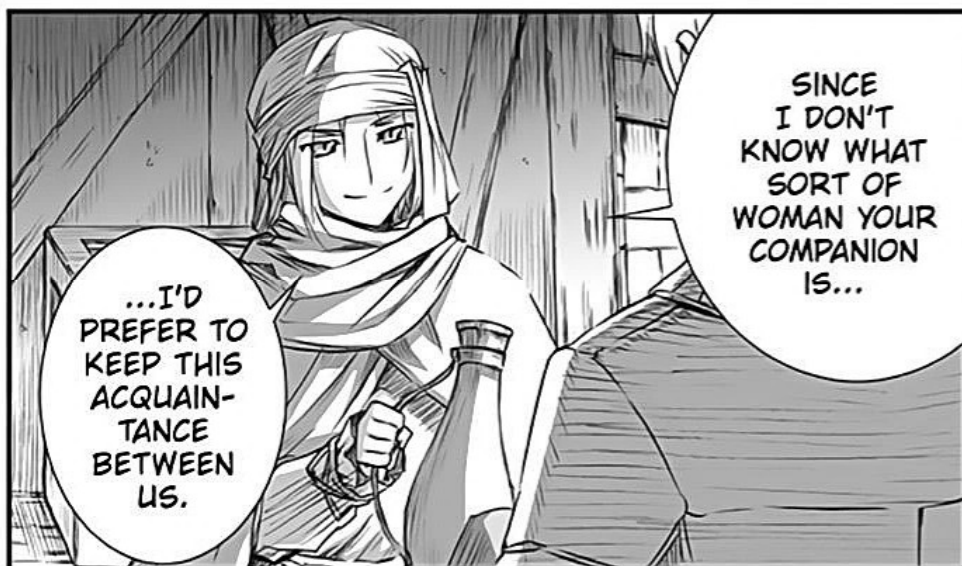
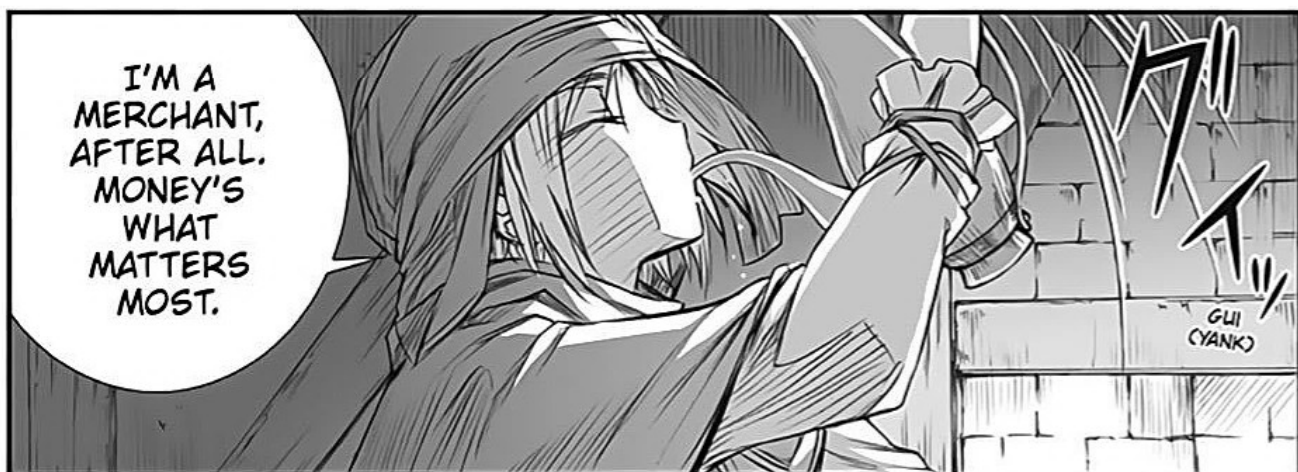


I CAN SEE
WHY OLD
MAN AROLD
LIKES YOU!

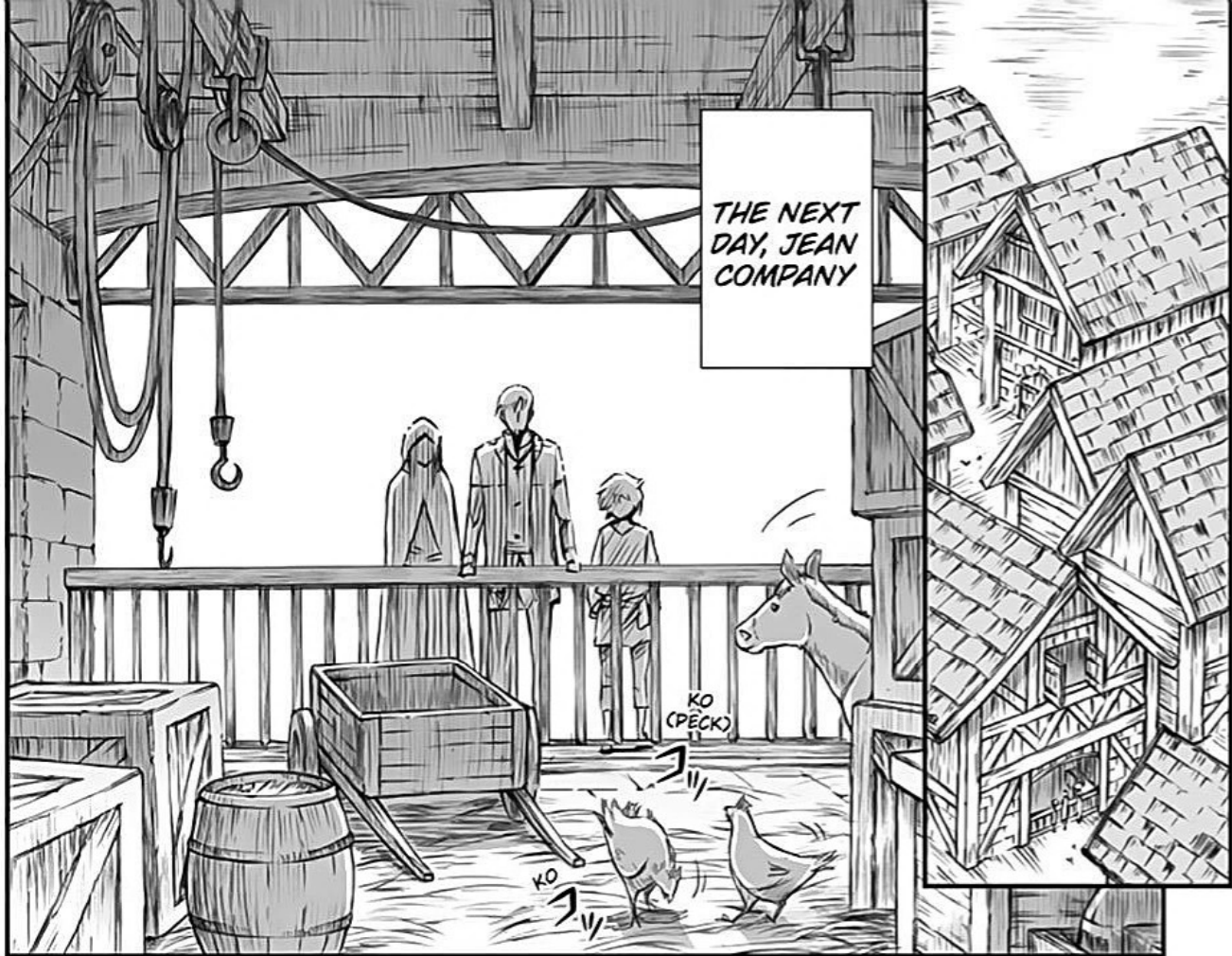
HA
HA
HA











THE NEXT DAY, JEAN COMPANY



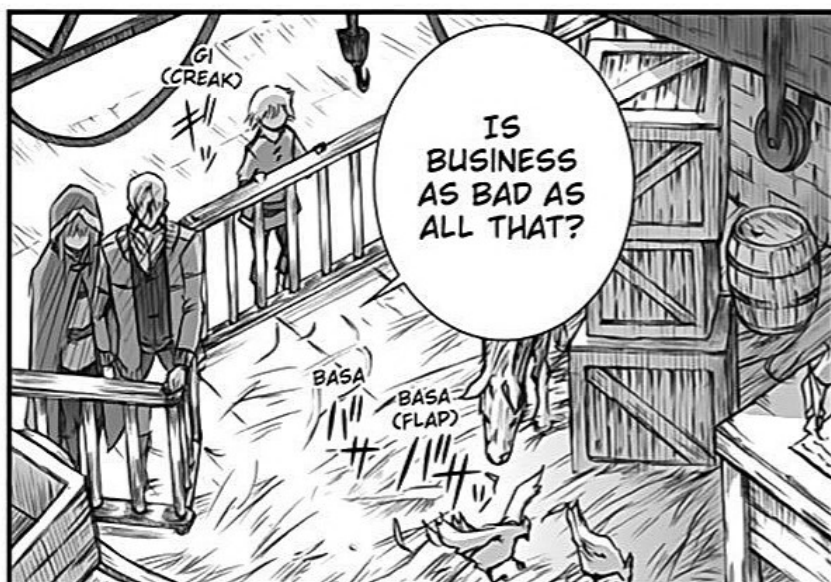
IS THIS THE PLACE...?

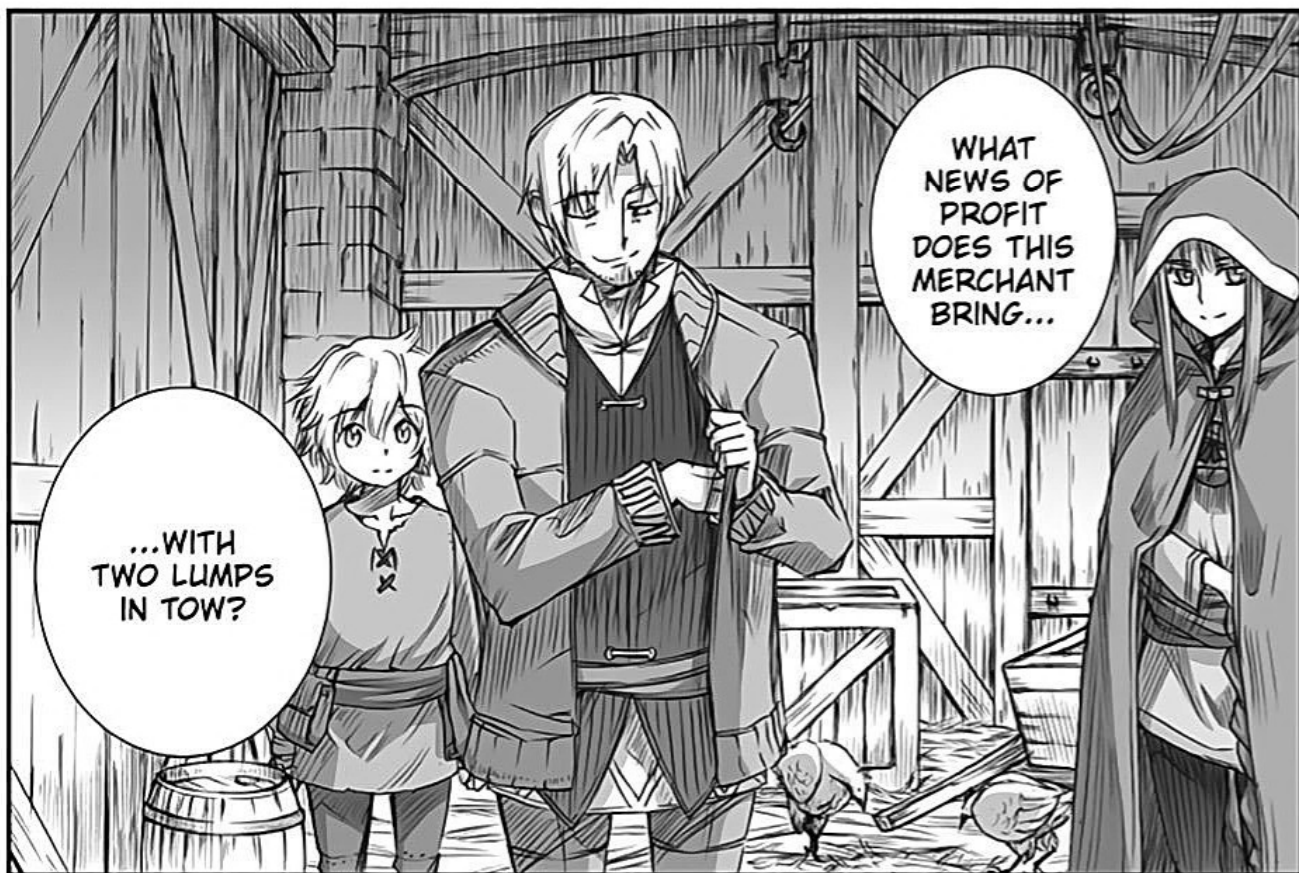


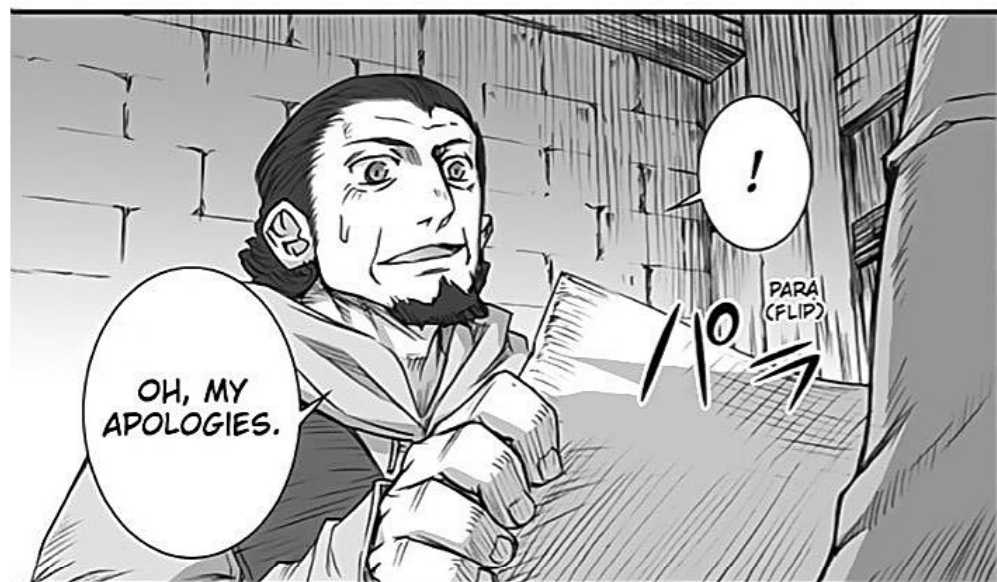
BUT IF YOU'VE COME TO SELL...

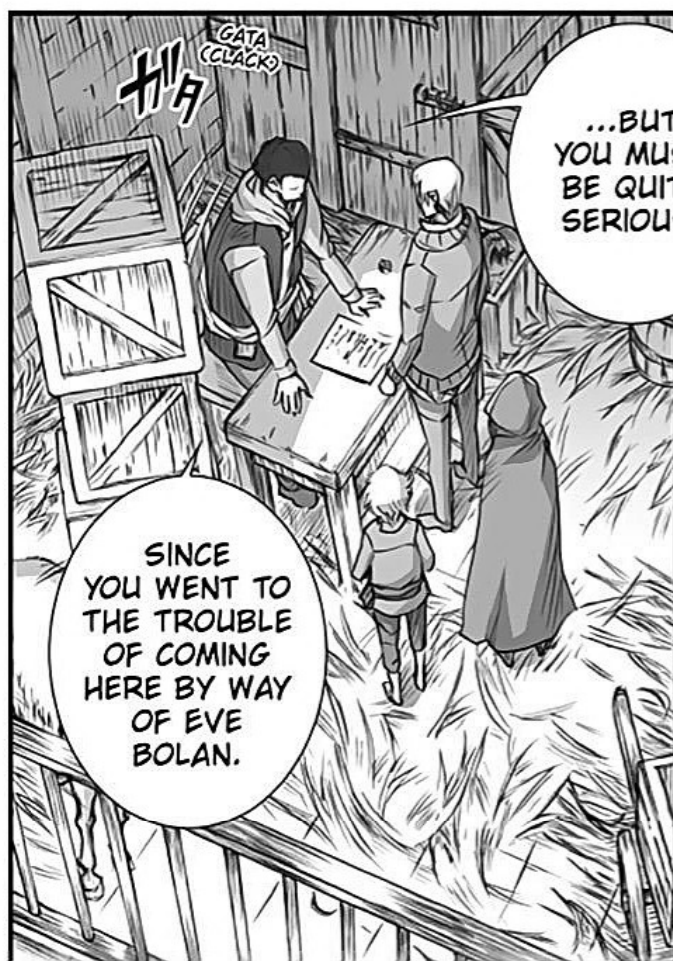
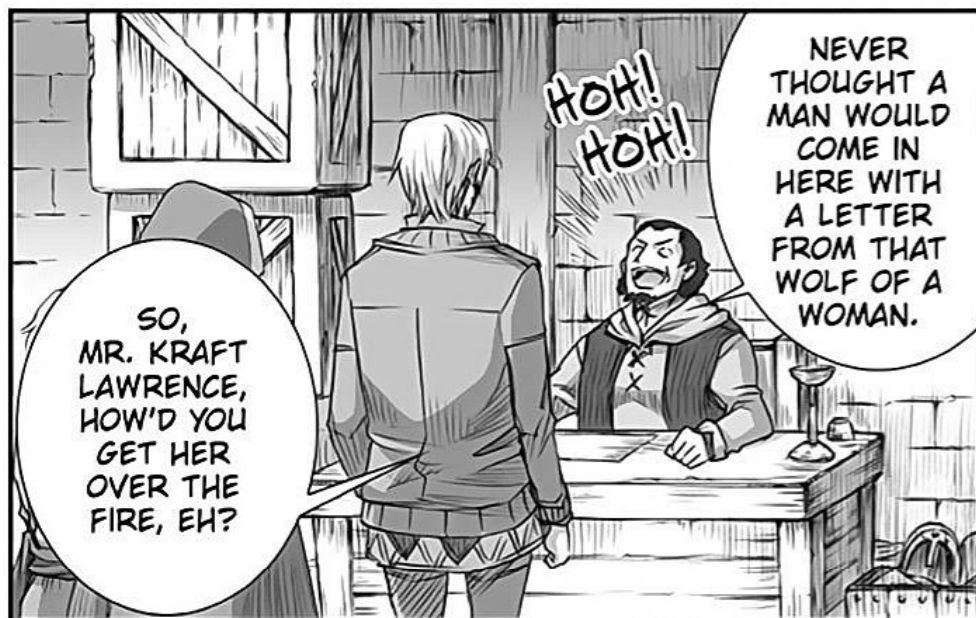


IF YOU'VE COME TO BUY, I WELCOME YOU, AND GLADLY.











I HAD
IMAGINED
HIM SLIGHTLY
YOUNGER,
BUT THIS IS
THE RIGHT
MAN...



WHERE
DID YOU
HEAR
ABOUT
THE
BOOK?



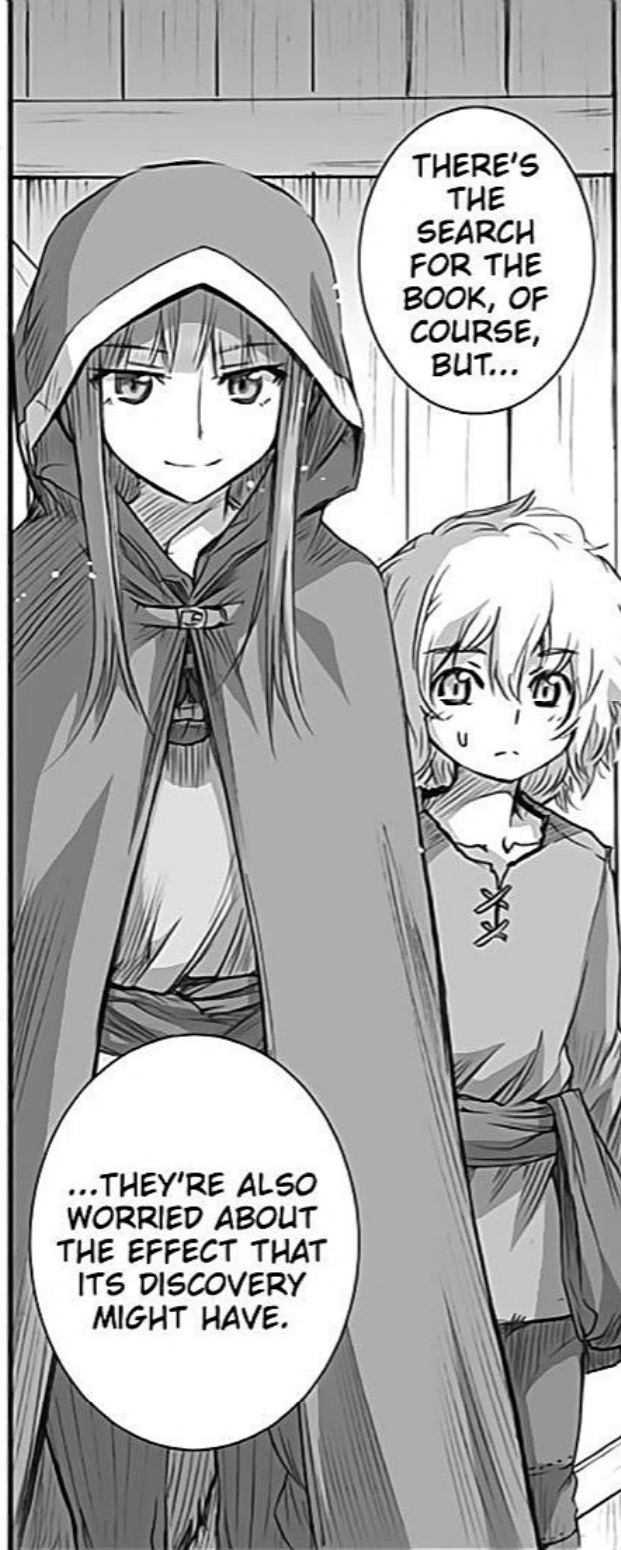
HOHH?

...ACTUALLY,
THESE TWO
ARE FROM THE
NORTHLANDS.



WELCOME,
KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

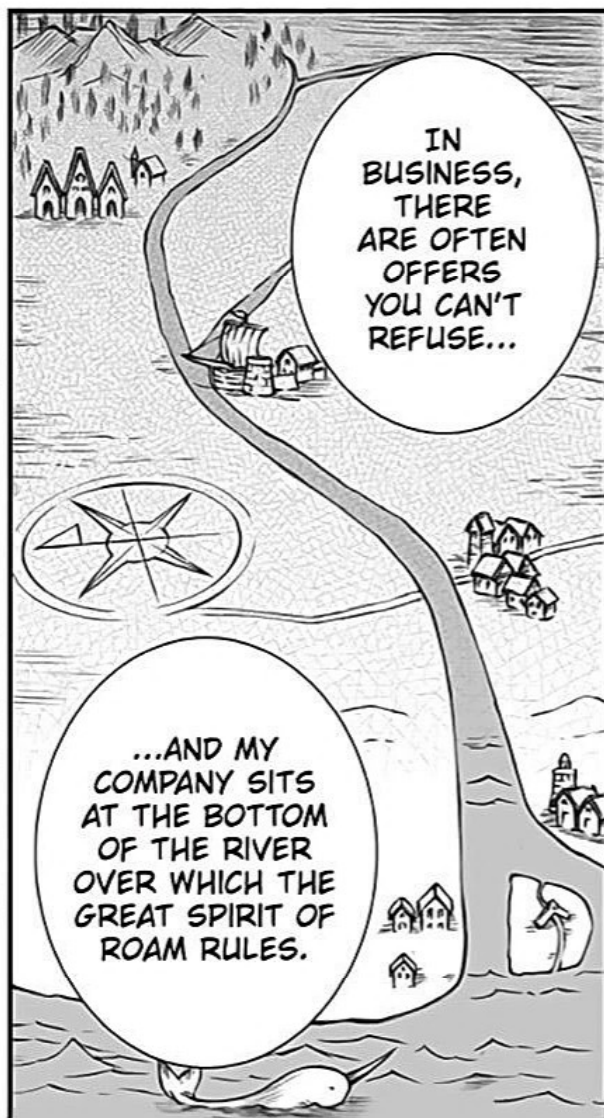
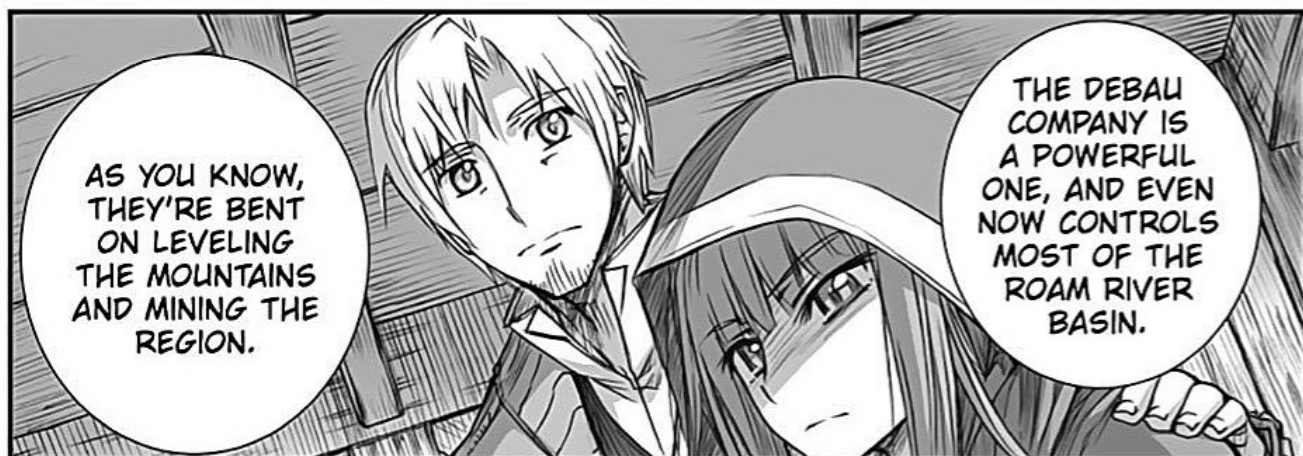
I'M THE
MASTER OF
THE JEAN
COMPANY, TED
REYNOLDS.

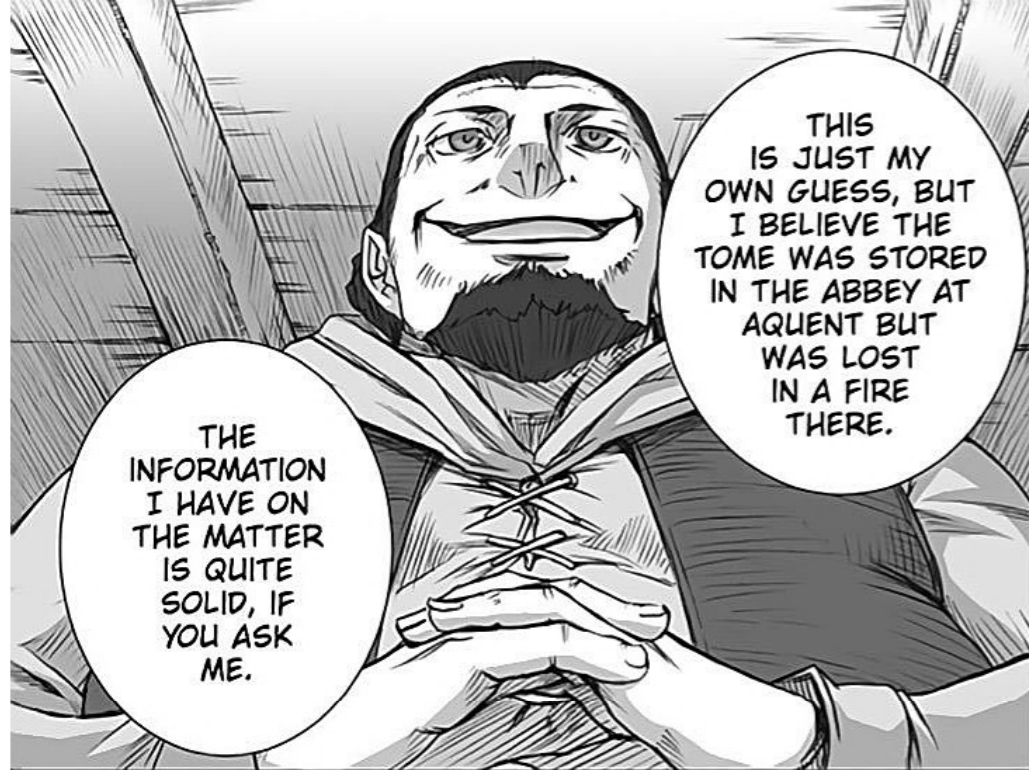


...AFTER
HEARING THE
RUMOR THAT
A CUSTOMER
OF MINE HAD
PUT A TRULY
REMARKABLE
PRICE ON A
CERTAIN
BOOK.

THIS...
IS THE
RESULT OF
THE EFFORT
OF ALL THE
PEOPLE
WHO SO
HELPFULLY
COOPER-
ATED...







THE
INFORMATION
I HAVE ON
THE MATTER
IS QUITE
SOLID, IF
YOU ASK
ME.

THIS
IS JUST MY
OWN GUESS, BUT
I BELIEVE THE
TOME WAS STORED
IN THE ABBEY AT
AQUENT BUT
WAS LOST
IN A FIRE
THERE.

BECAUSE
SOME
WERE
SAVING
THAT
IF THE
REAL
THING
WERE
FOUND,
THEY'D
BE PAID A
THOUSAND,
TWO
THOUSAND
LUMIONE
FOR IT.

ANYWAY,
IT TURNED
INTO QUITE A
COMMOTION.



THERE WAS
A GREAT
FIRE IN
AQUENT
FOUR OR
FIVE YEARS
AGO!

.....



SO, UM...
COULD YOU
SHOW US
ANY OF THE
LETTERS
RELATING TO
AQUENT?

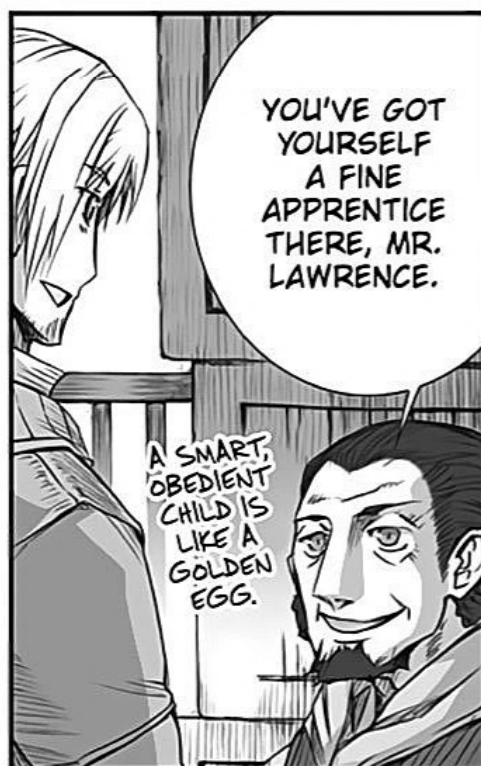
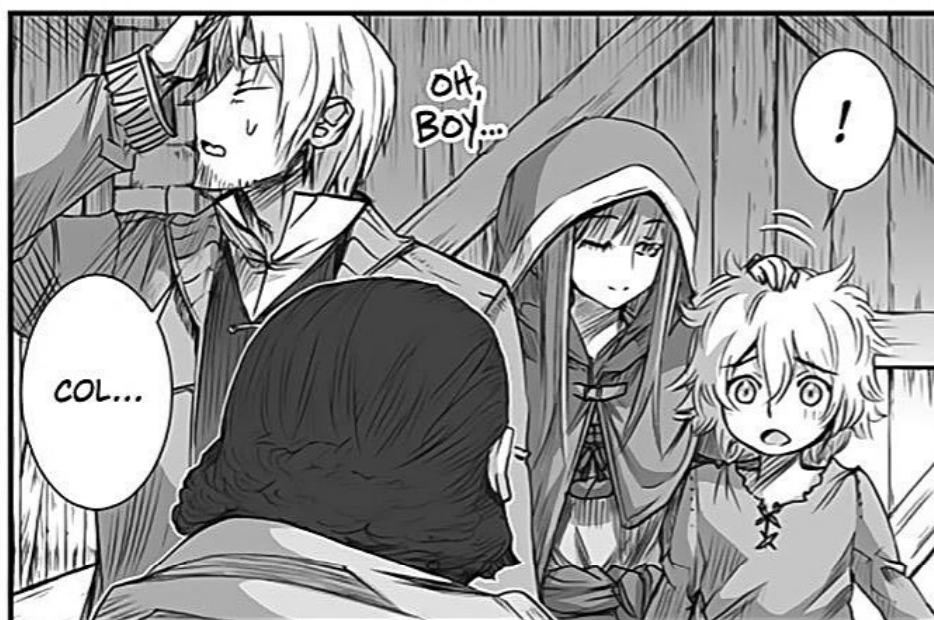
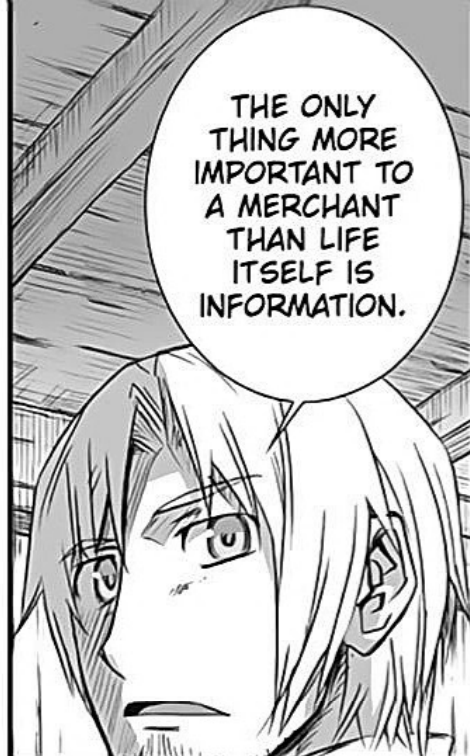


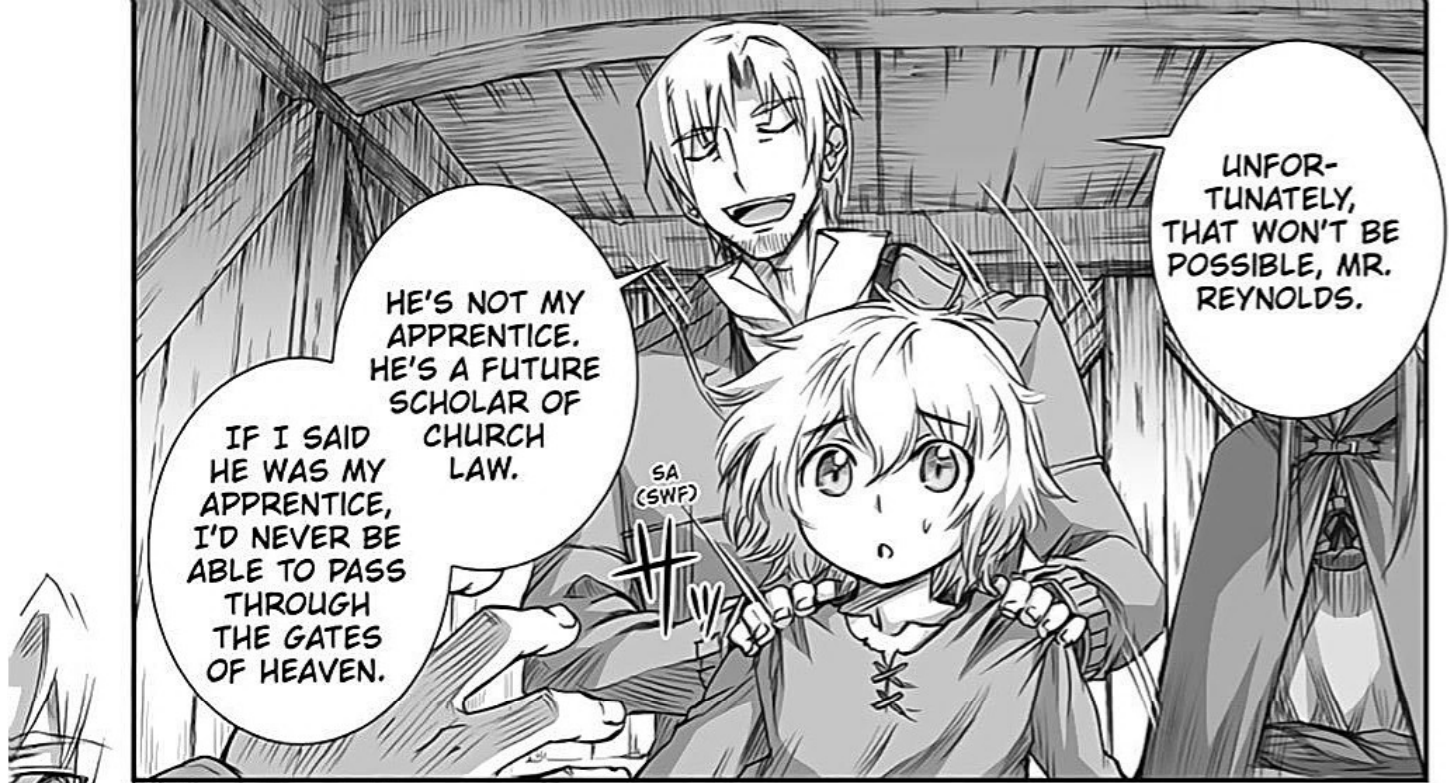
OH
HOHH!

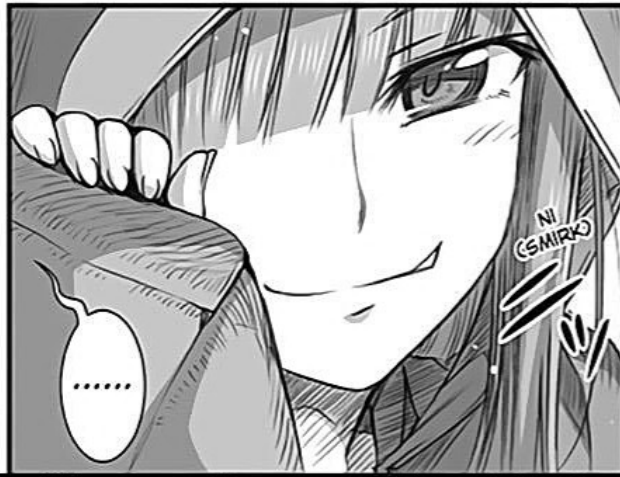
A
STUDENT,
WERE
YOU?

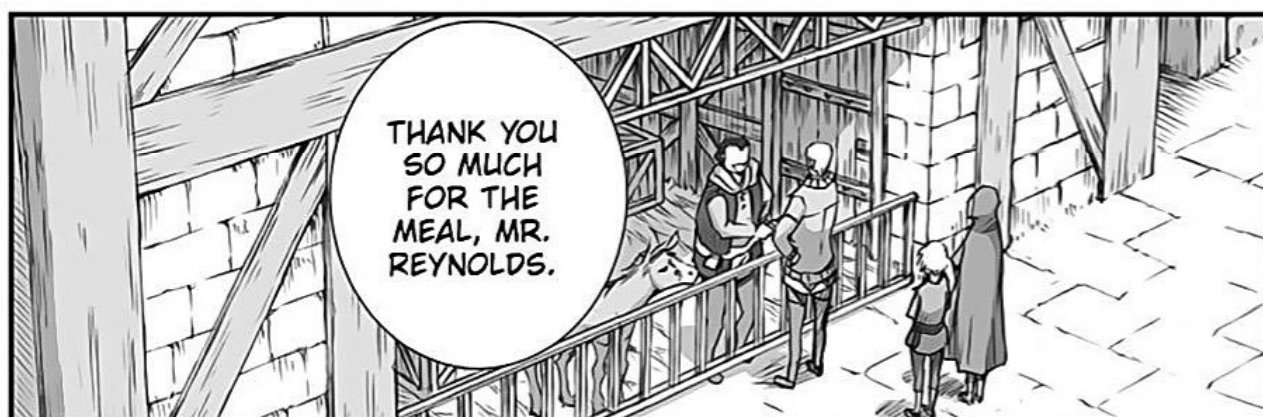
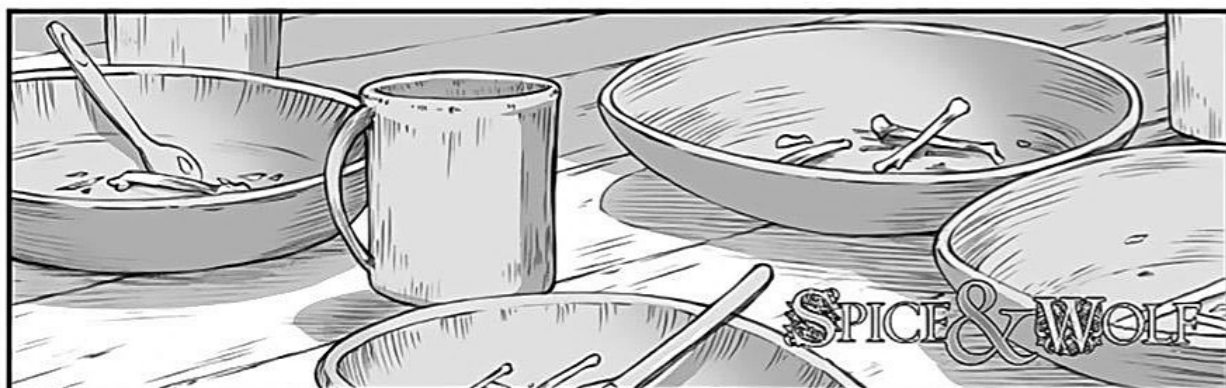
ZUI
(ZOOM)

UH,
UM...









SPICE & WOLF





GIVEN THE
CHANGE IN
REYNOLDS'S
DEMEANOR...
EVE MUST
BE QUITE A
PERSON.

NOW,
THEN...



YOU LOOK
TROUBLED.



JUST
IGNORE
THEM...







THE
COPPER
COINS,
EH?



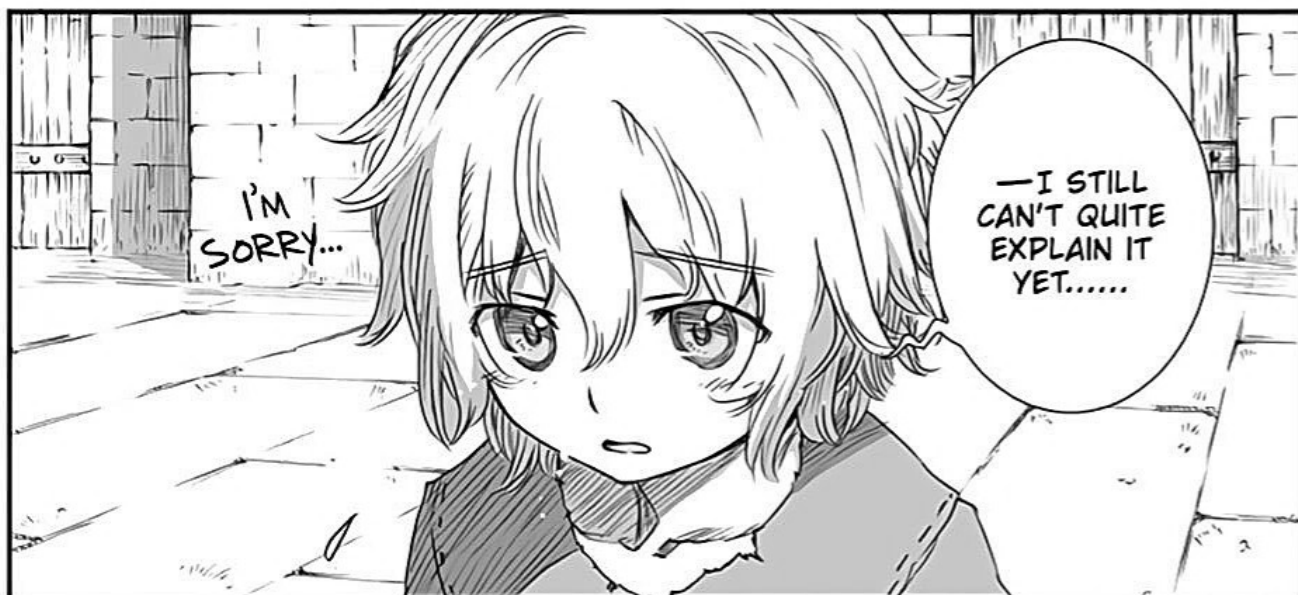
SINCE WE
LEARNED WHAT
WE NEEDED TO
KNOW SO EASILY,
IT LOOKS LIKE
WE WON'T NEED
TO USE OUR
TRUMP CARD.



THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
THAT THE JEAN
COMPANY IS UP
TO SOMETHING,
BUT...



FIFTY-EIGHT
BOXES PACKED
WITH COPPER COINS
COMING DOWN THE
RIVER HAD BECOME
SIXTY BOXES ON
THEIR WAY TO
THE KINGDOM
OF WINFIEL.

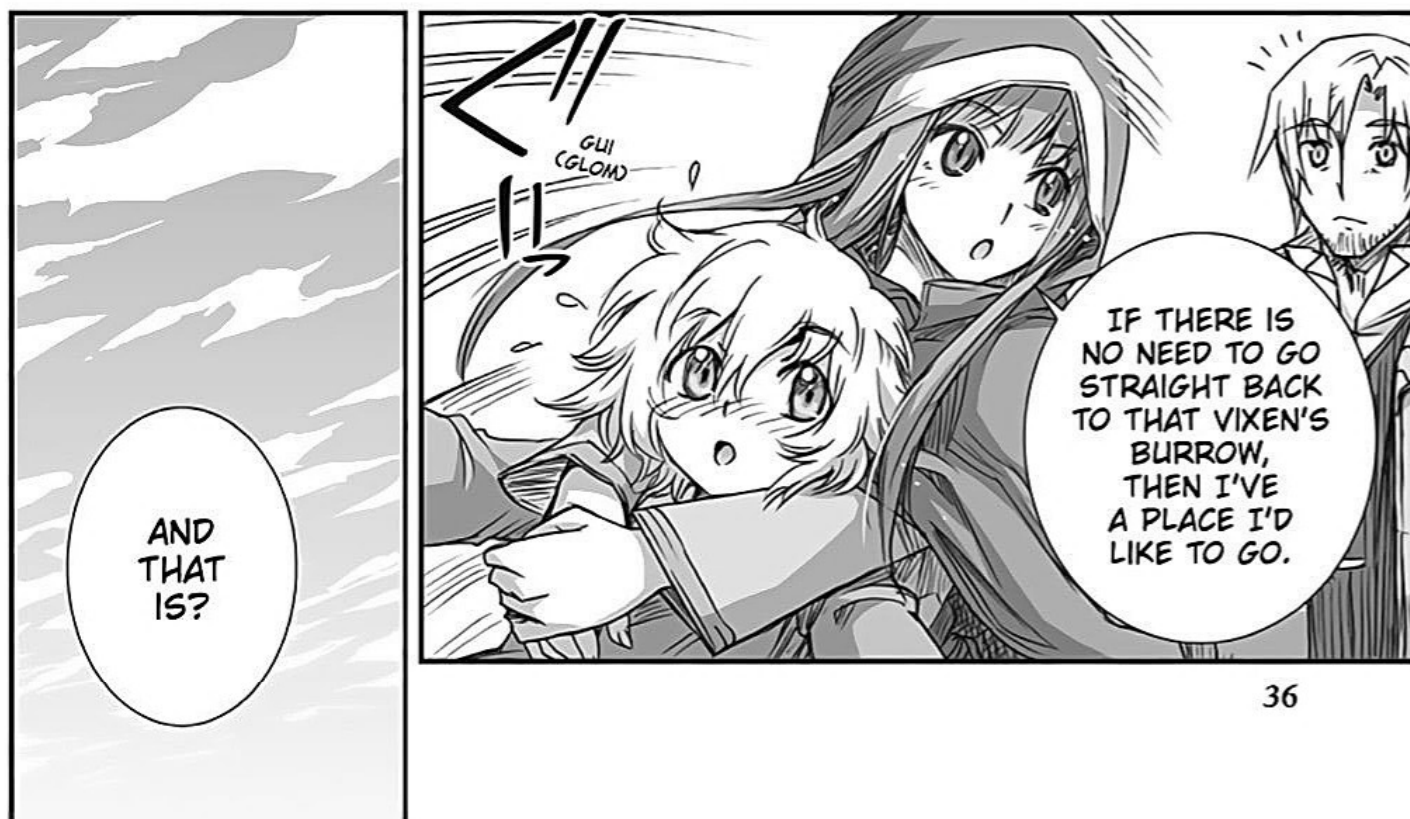


I'M
SORRY...

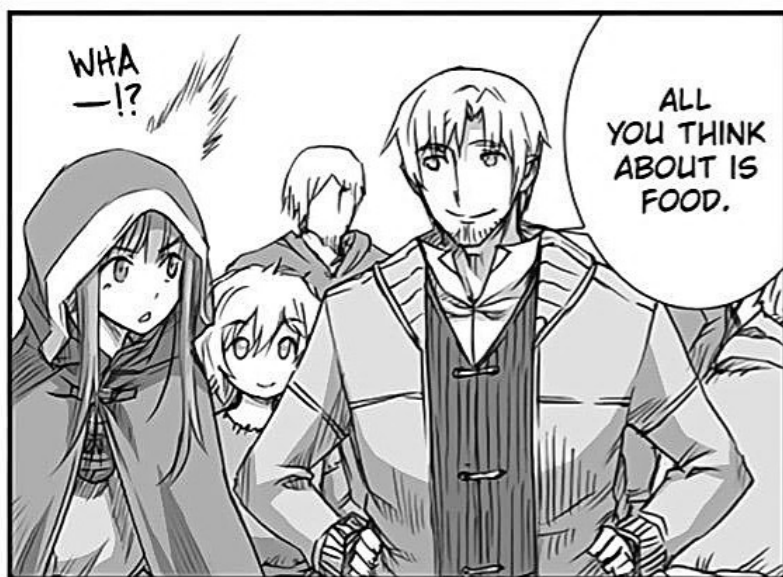
—I STILL
CAN'T QUITE
EXPLAIN IT
YET.....













THAT'S
BECAUSE
I AM YOUR
FOOD.



I AM ALWAYS
THINKING
ABOUT YOU,
AS WELL!

POFU
(FLUMP)

ぽ

ぽ



SO
YOU'LL
LOOSEN
YOUR PURSE
STRINGS
A BIT FOR
ME?



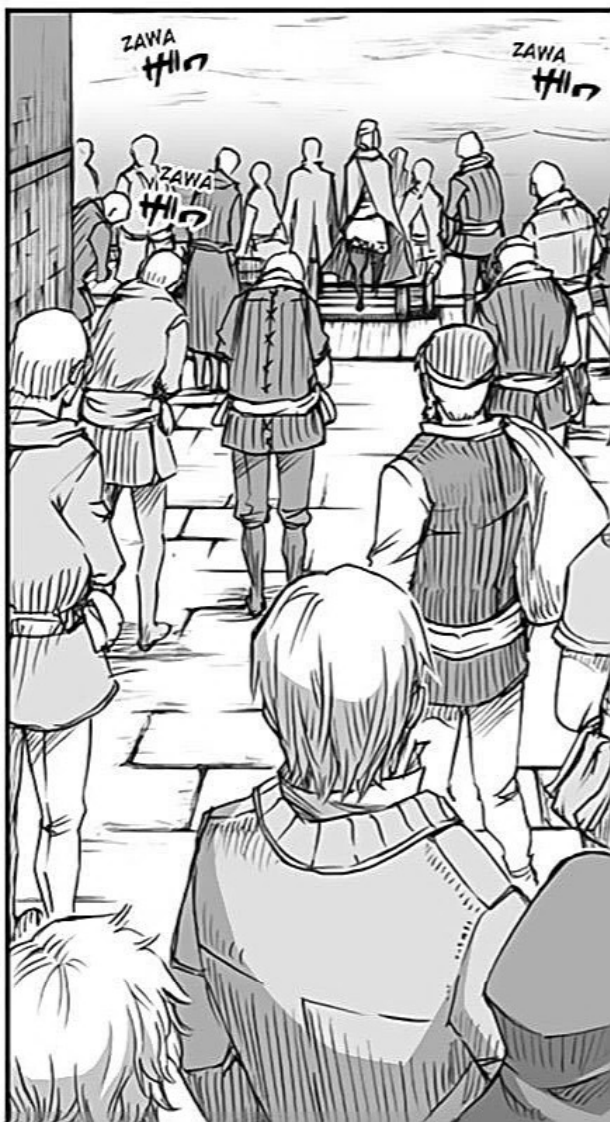
KUH
FU!
FU!

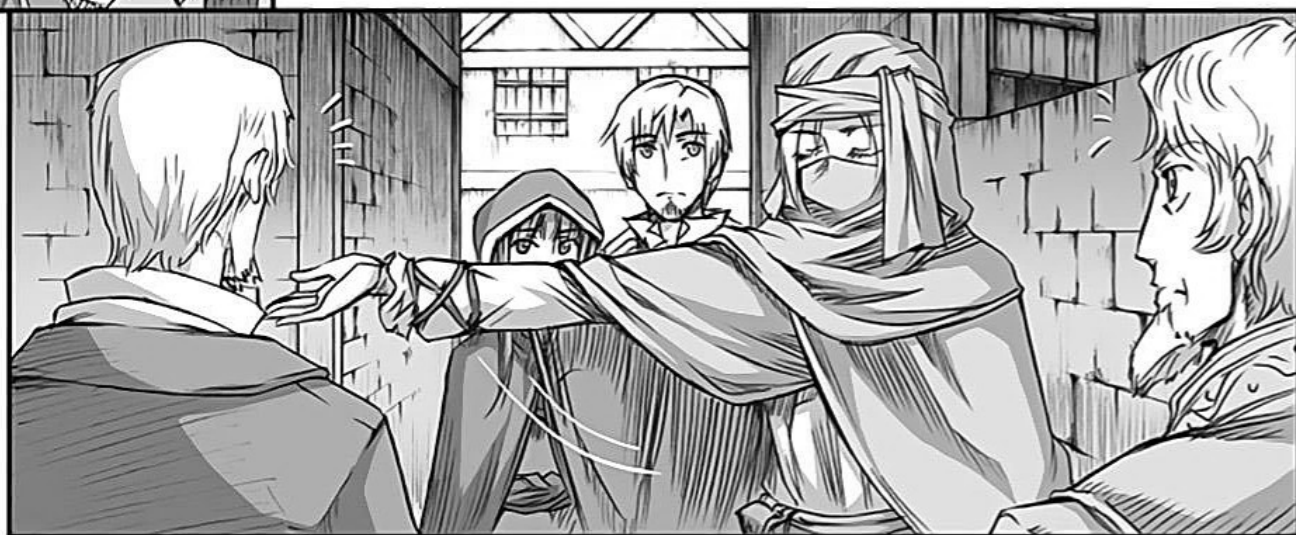
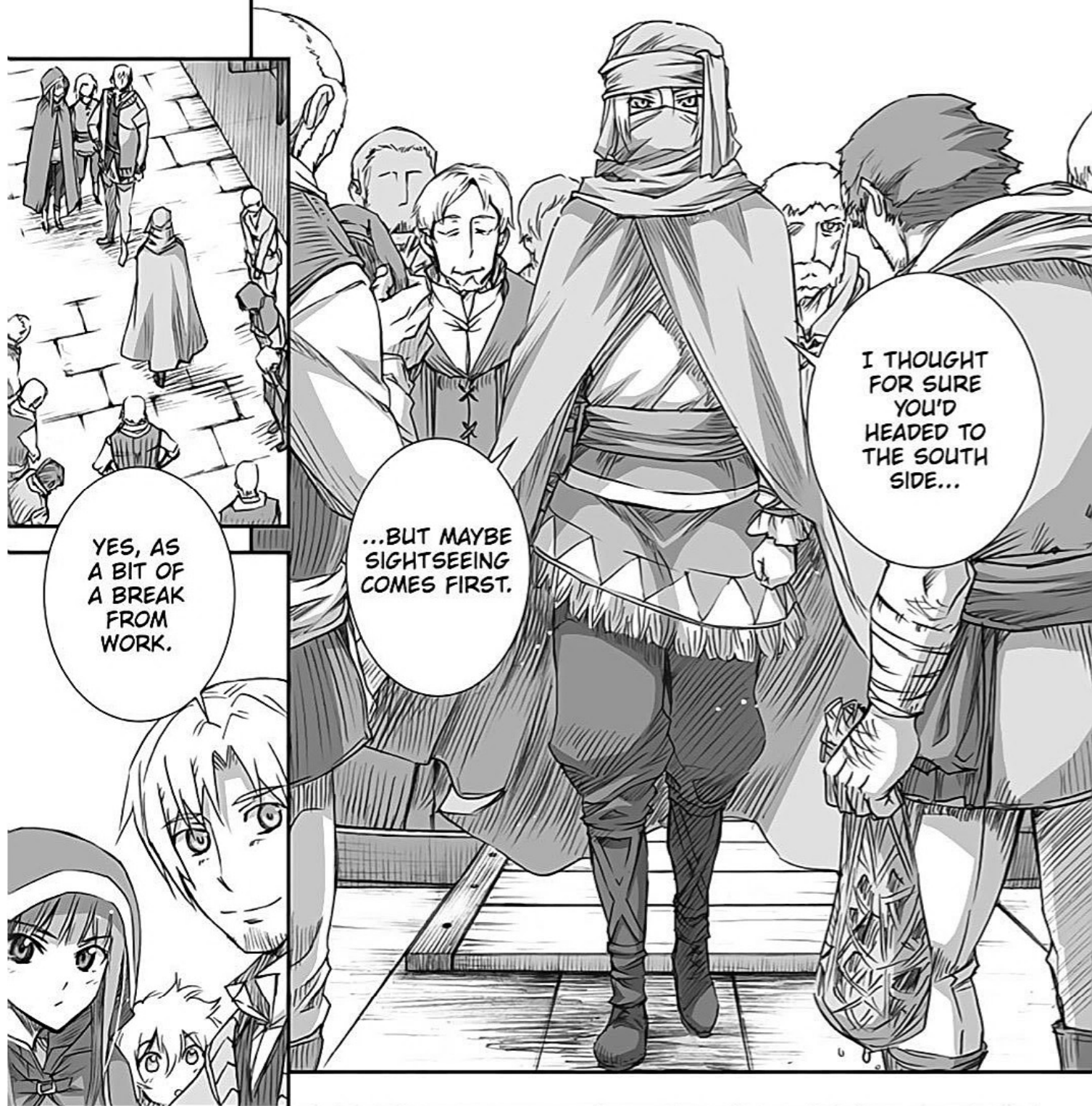
DID YOU
PUT COL
UP TO
THAT?

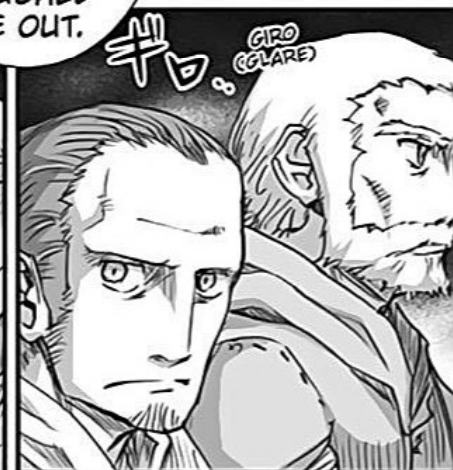
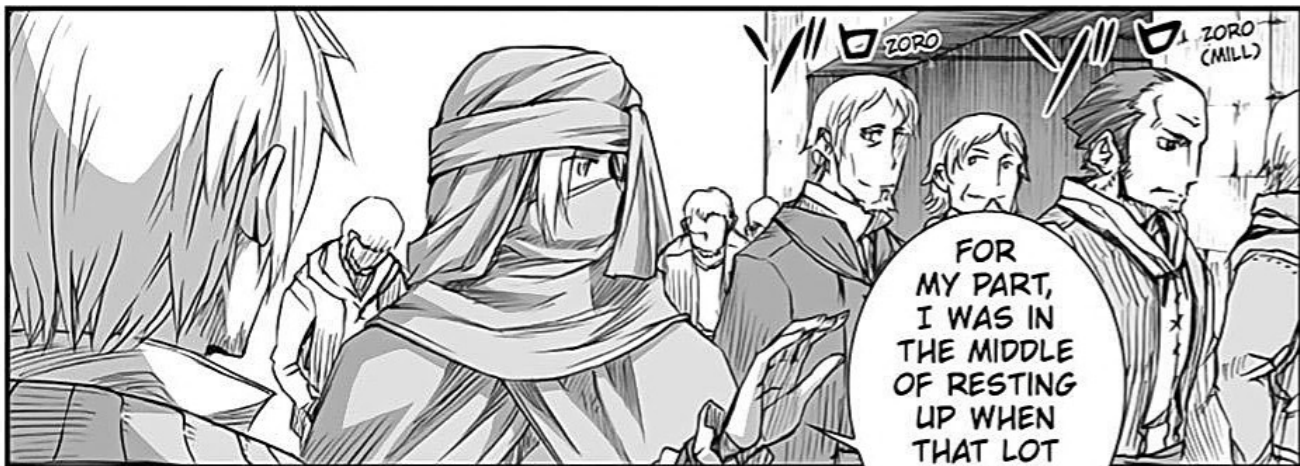


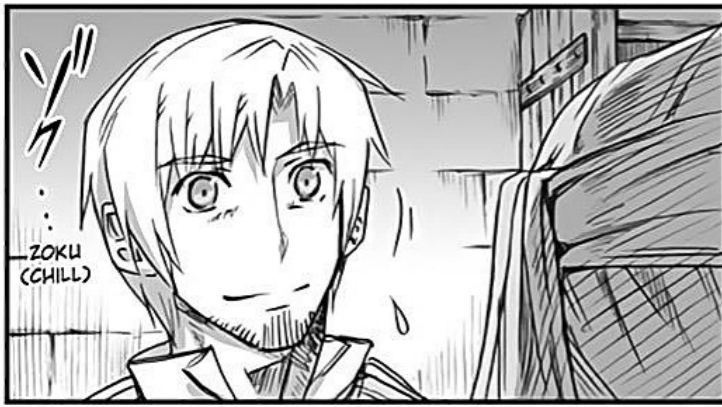
TH-
THANK
YOU IN
ADVANCE
FOR THE
FOOD.



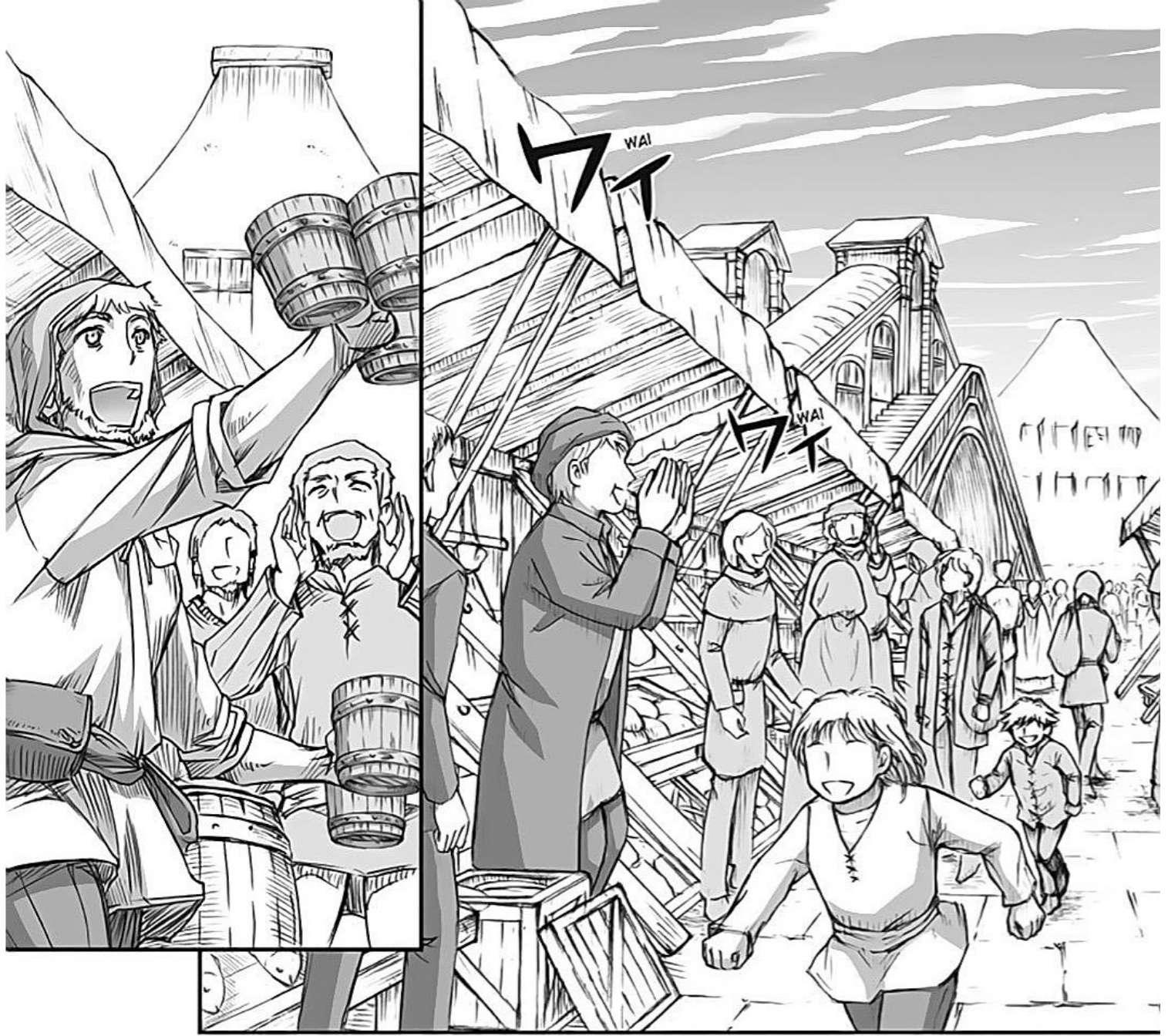












AND THE CROWDS HAVE TURNED UP TO WATCH, YOU SEE.

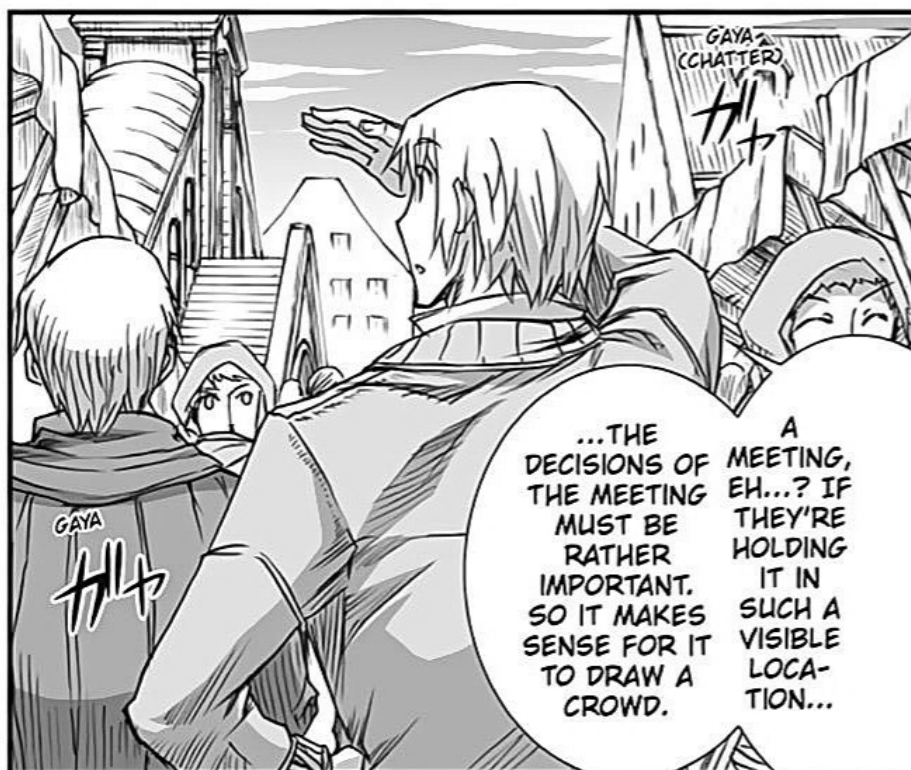
THE LEADERS OF THE TOWN ARE HAVING THEIR MEETING AT THE "SPRING OF GOLD" TODAY.

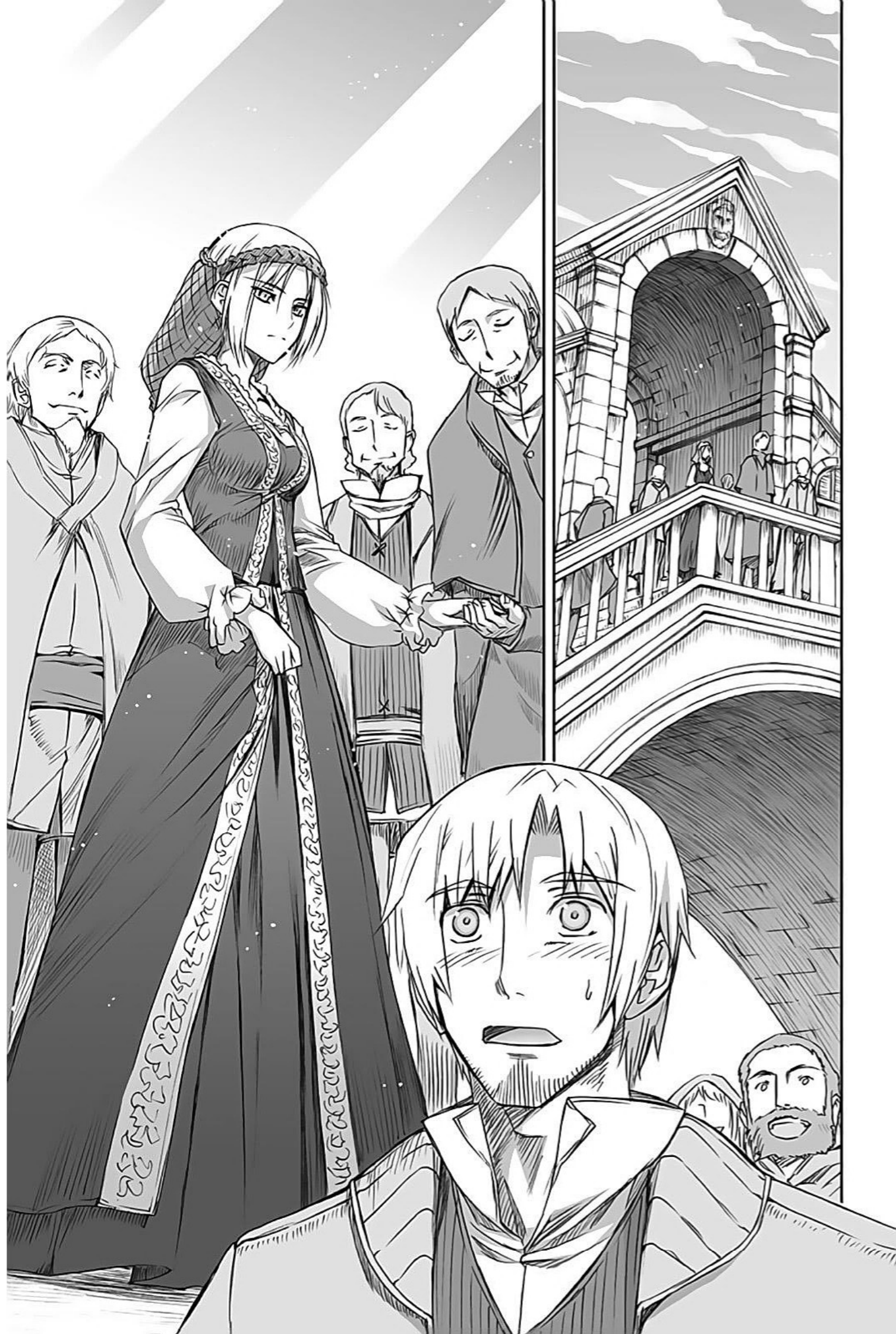


...YOU SAID SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR.

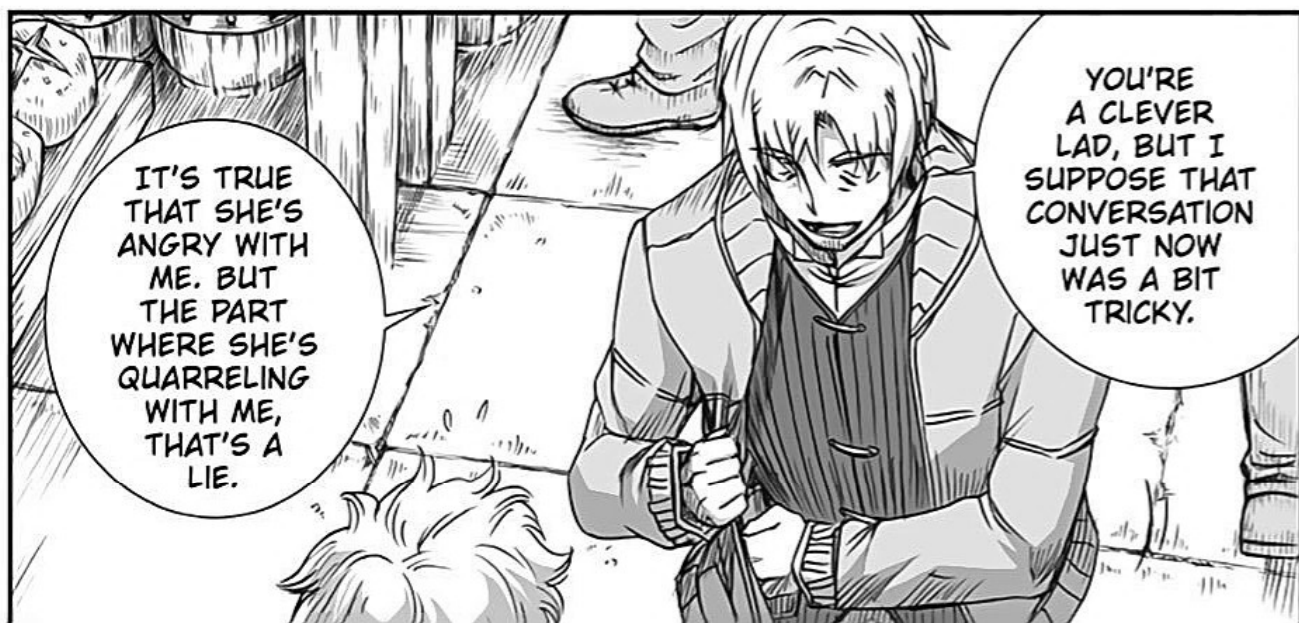
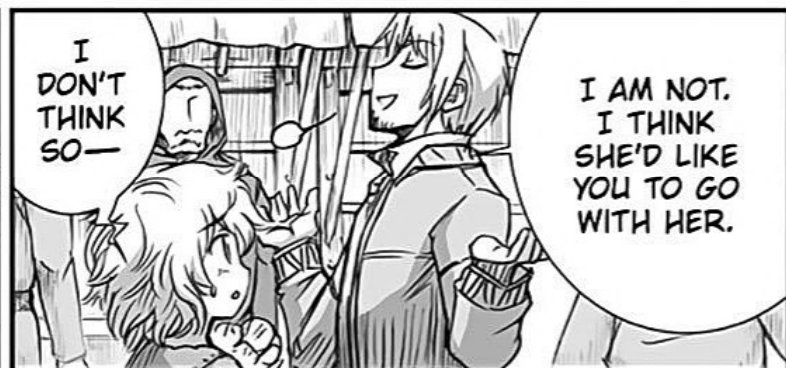
AS I RECALL, WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED PAZZIO...



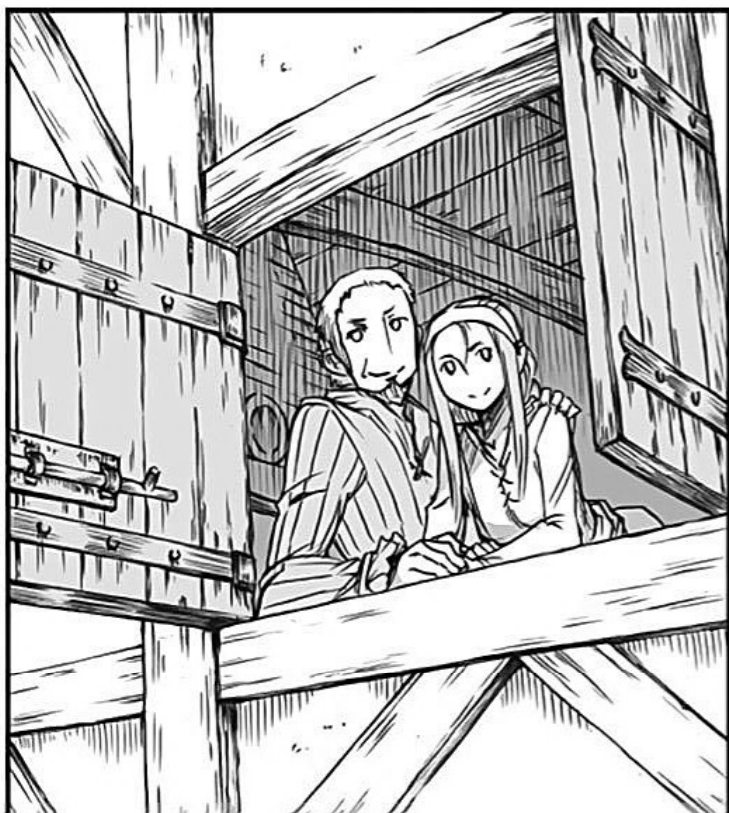
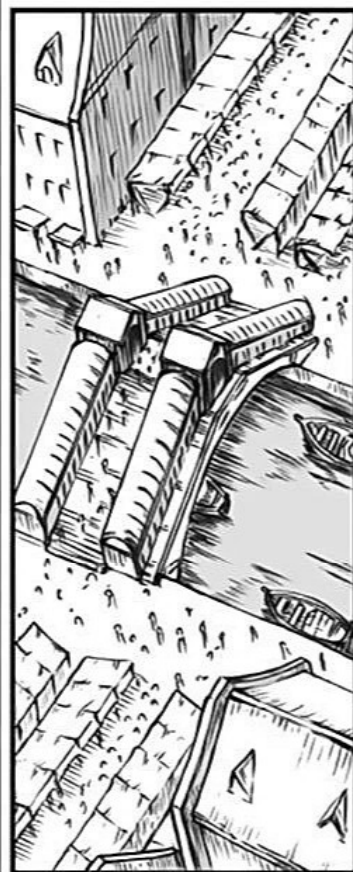


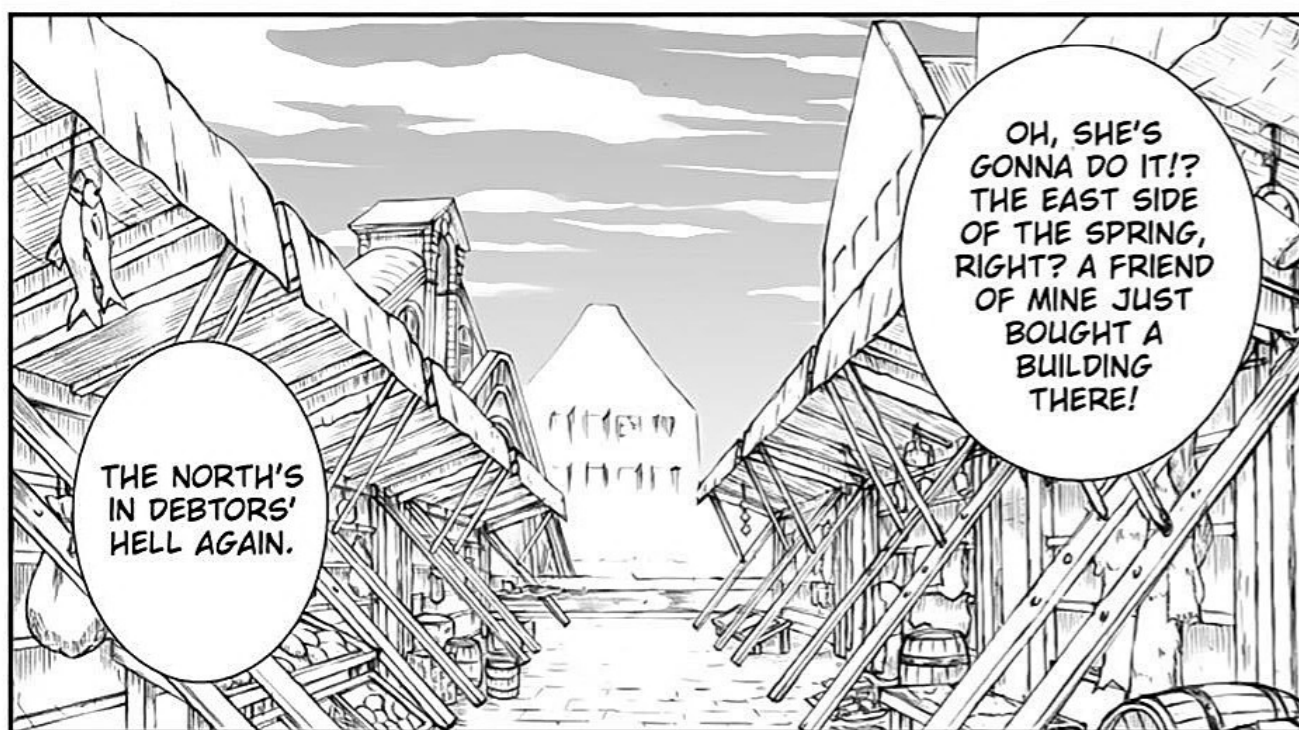
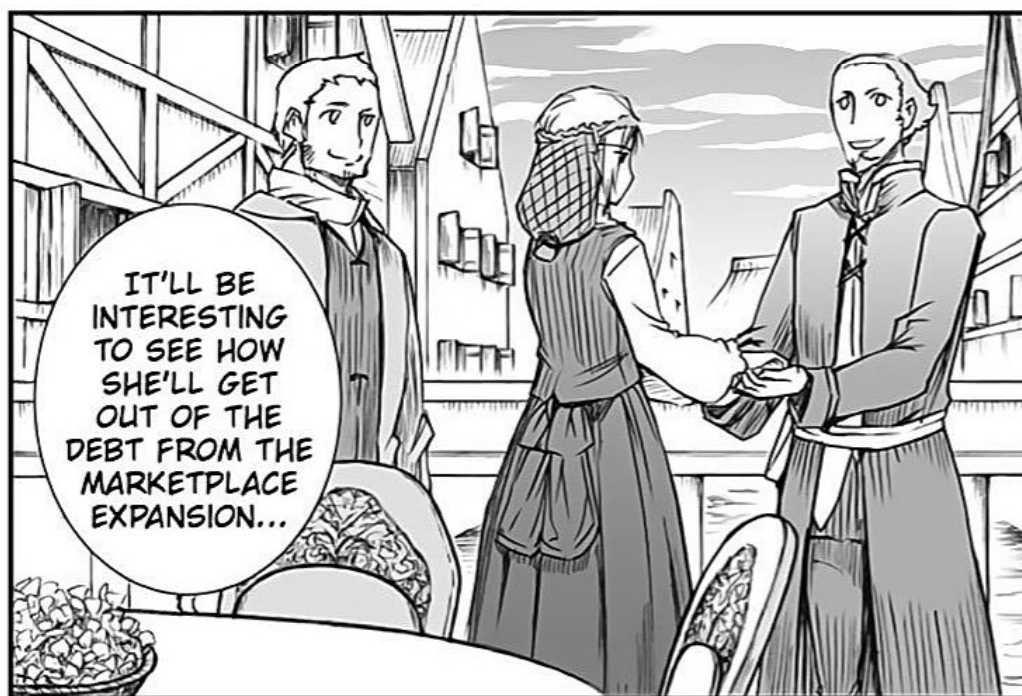


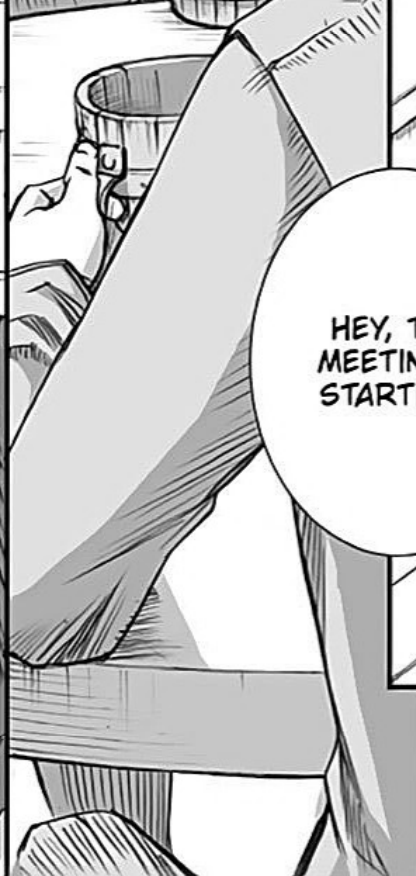
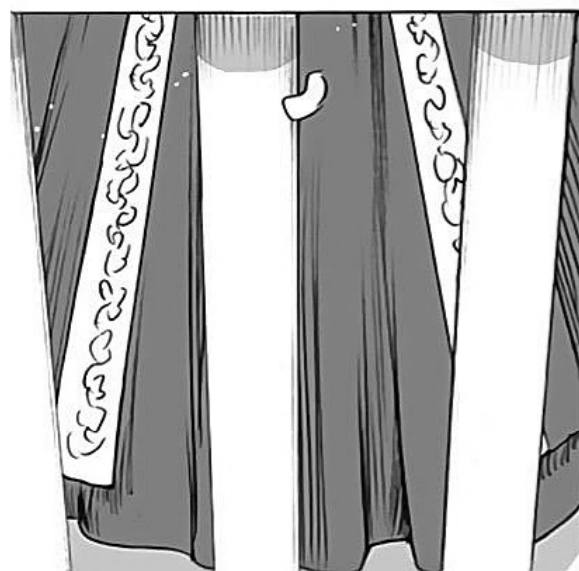
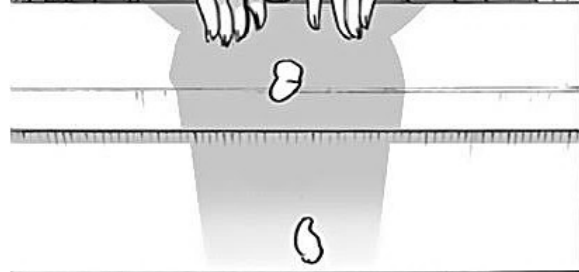


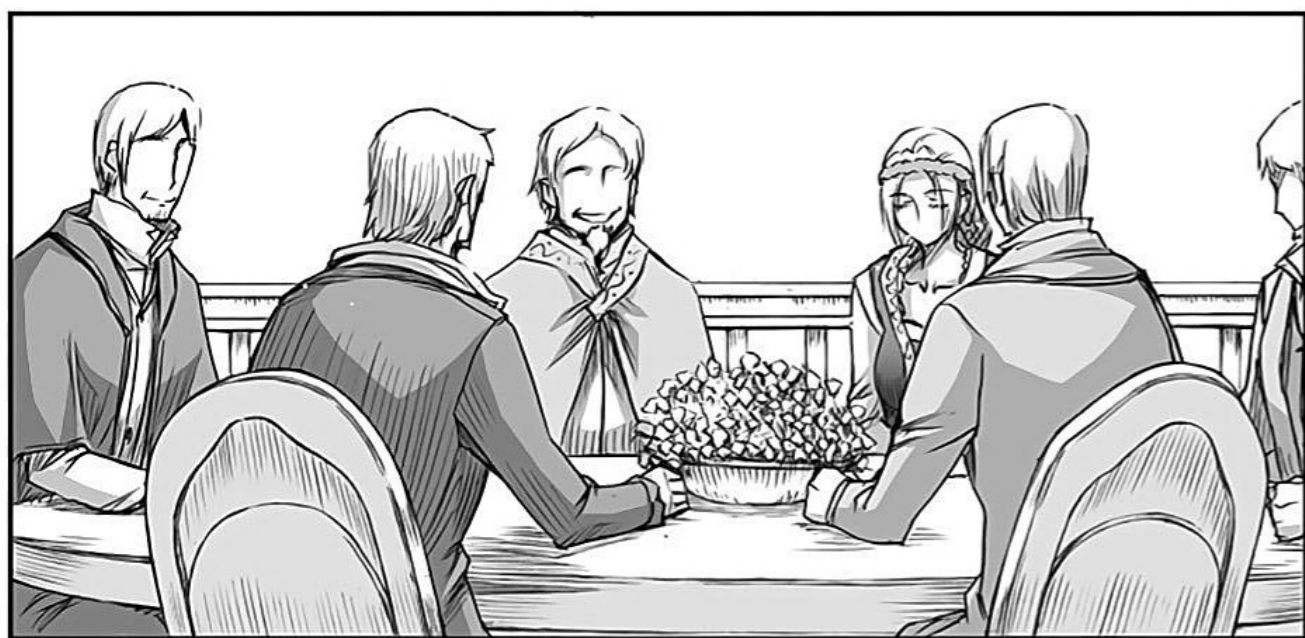
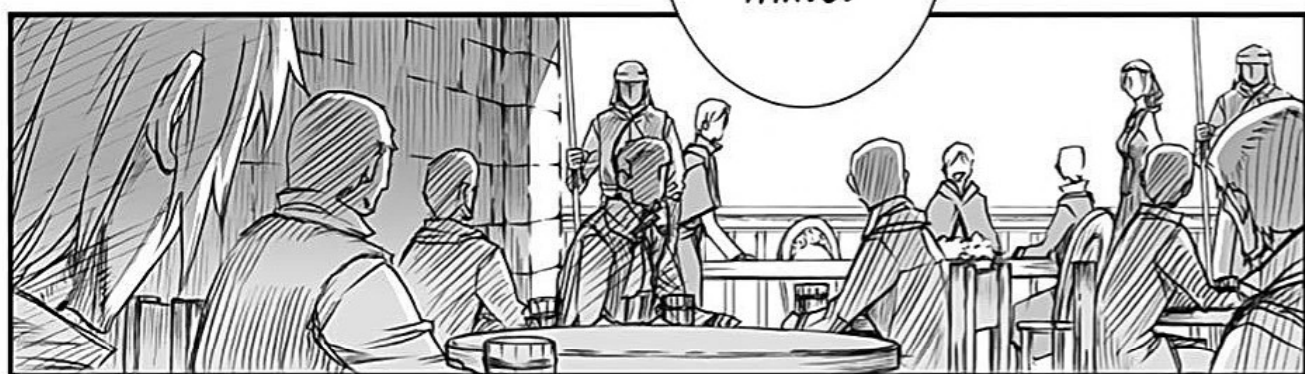


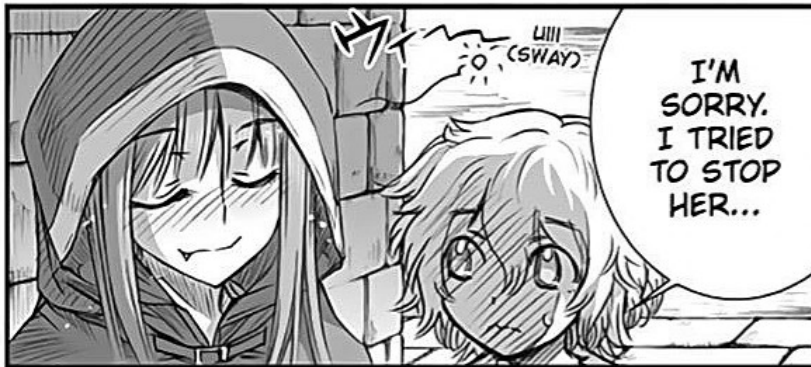


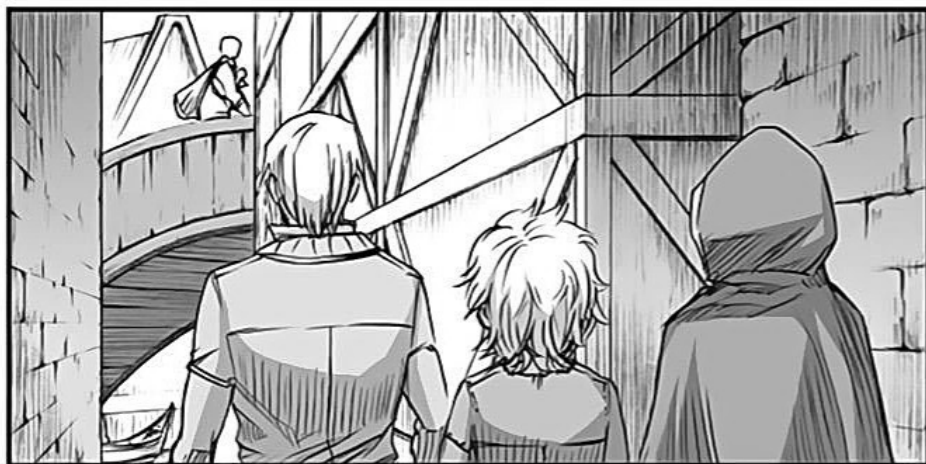












...IT
LOOKS
THAT
WAY,
YES.



SURE?
BUT...

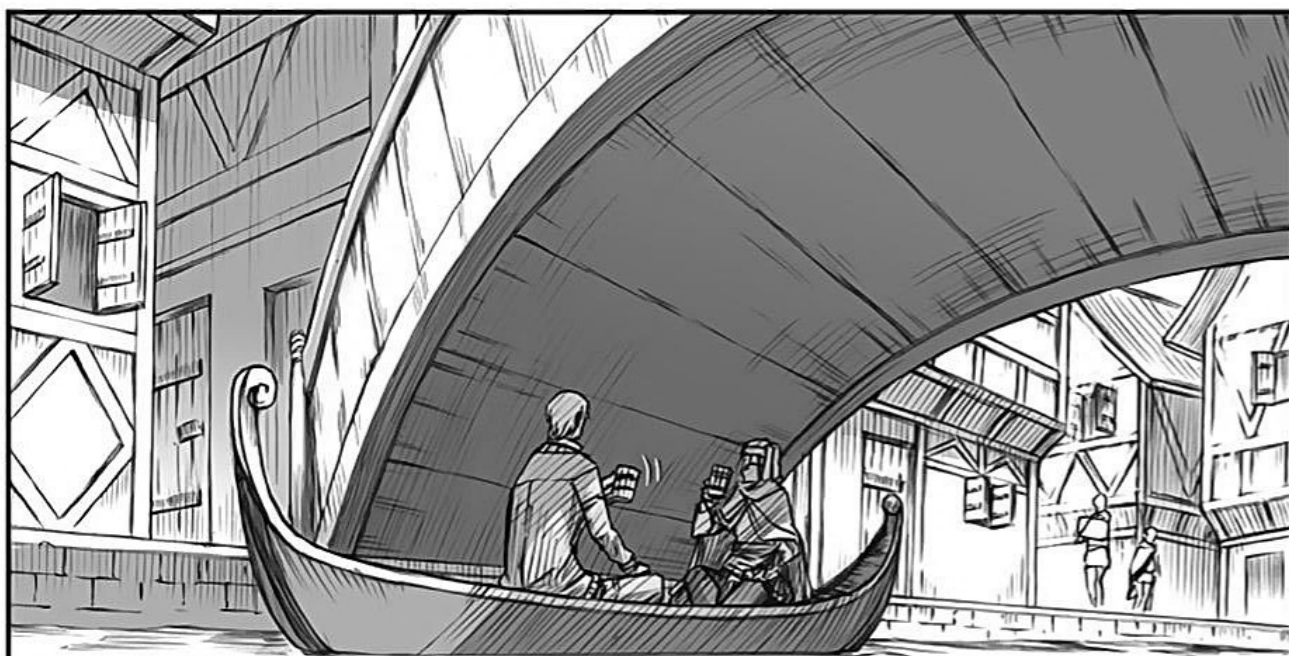
—SORRY,
COL, BUT
COULD YOU
SEE HOLO
BACK TO
THE INN?

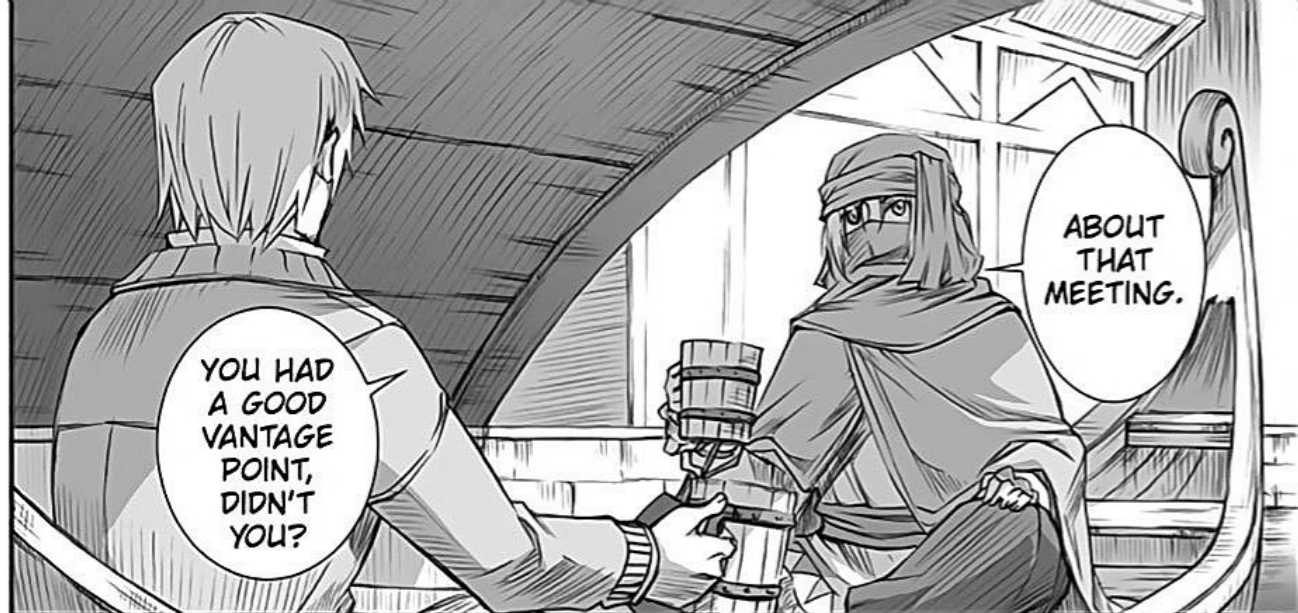


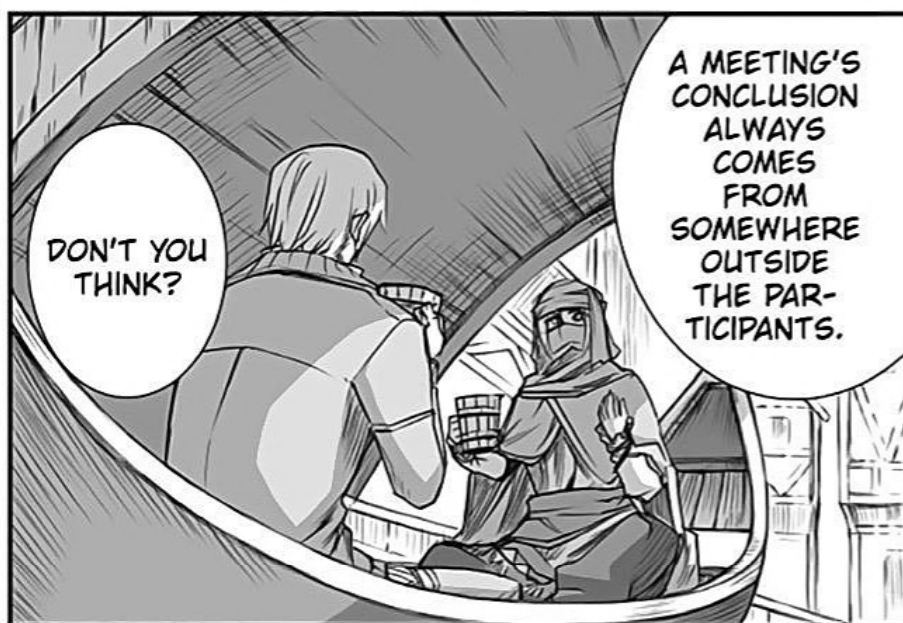
THE CHANGE
FROM THE
COIN YOU GAVE
ME WILL BE
ENOUGH TO
PAY THE
FERRYMAN,
BUT...

HAS
SOME-
THING
COME
UP?

SPICE & WOLF







DON'T YOU
THINK?

A MEETING'S
CONCLUSION
ALWAYS
COMES
FROM
SOMEWHERE
OUTSIDE
THE PAR-
TICIPANTS.



NOT TO
PUT TOO
FINE A
POINT
ON IT.



YOU WERE
QUITE LOVELY
IN THE OPEN
LIKE THAT...
BUT THEY'VE
ENTRUSTED
THEIR UNDER-
THE-TABLE
DEALINGS TO
YOU AS WELL,
I HEAR?



IF I SAID
IT MADE
ME HAPPY
YOU WERE
HONESTLY
ENVOIOUS,
WOULD
YOU
LAUGH?



.....I'M
WONDERING
WHY YOU'D
BOTHRER IDLING
AROUND ON
A BOAT WITH
ME, THEN.



I'D
LAUGH,
ALL
RIGHT.



THE TRUTH
IS, I WAS
RATHER
MELANCHOLY
ABOUT HAVING
BEEN SUMMONED
BY THAT LOT.

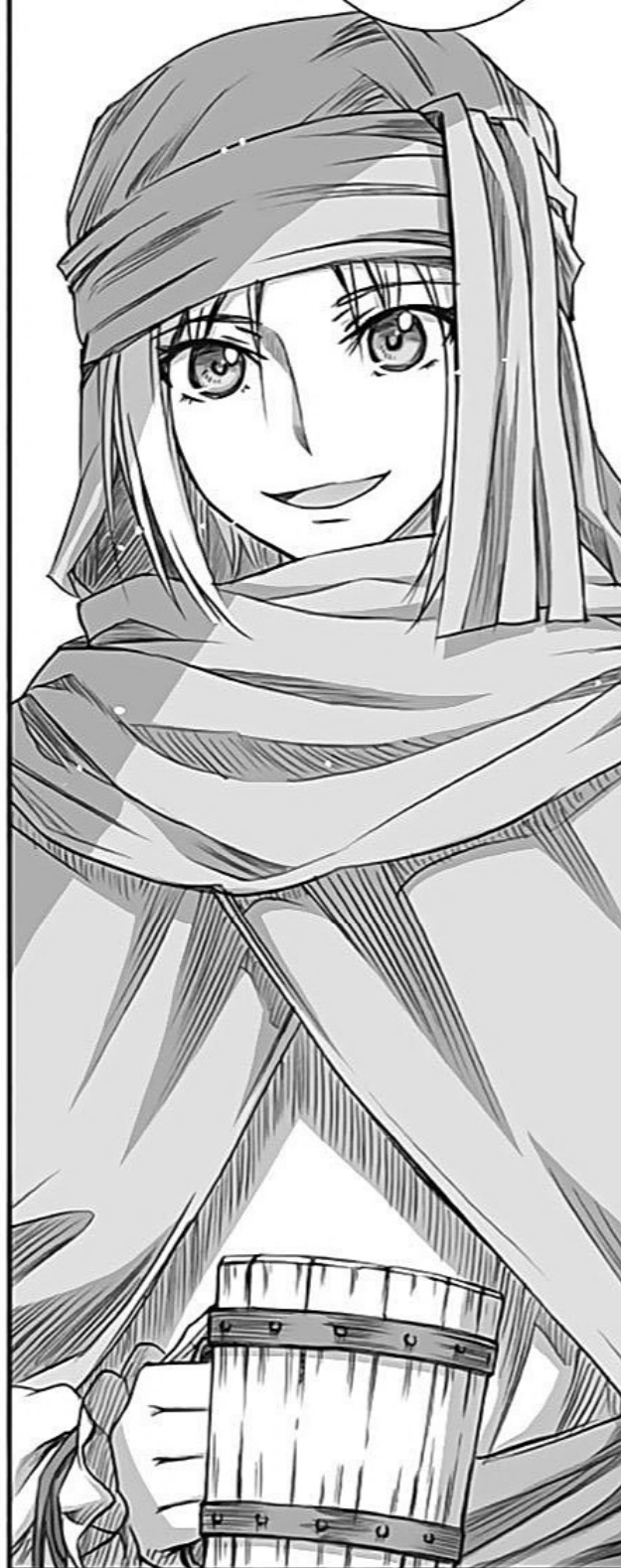


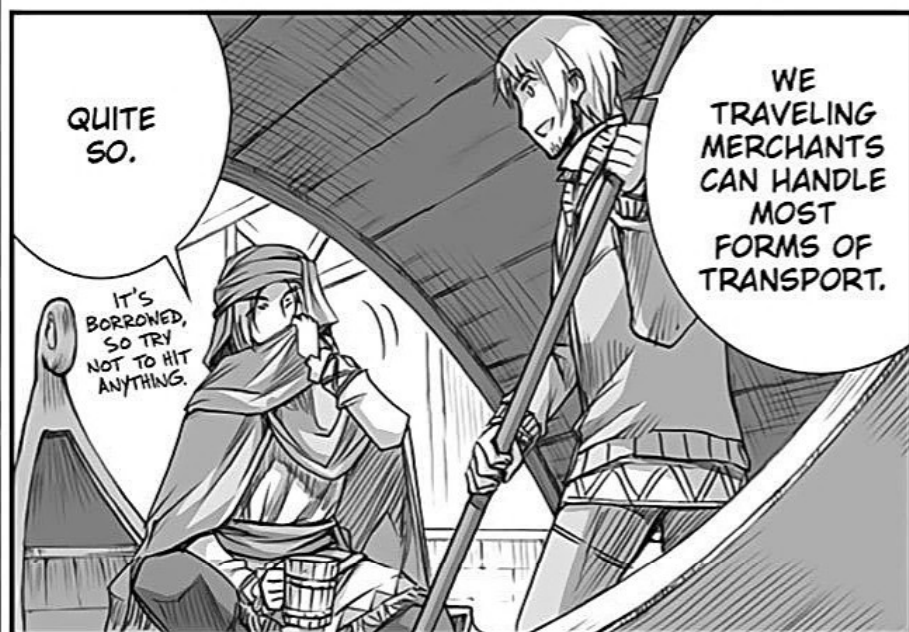
SHALL WE
CONTINUE
THIS ON THE
WAY TO THE
PIER? IT'LL
BE CLOSING
SOON.

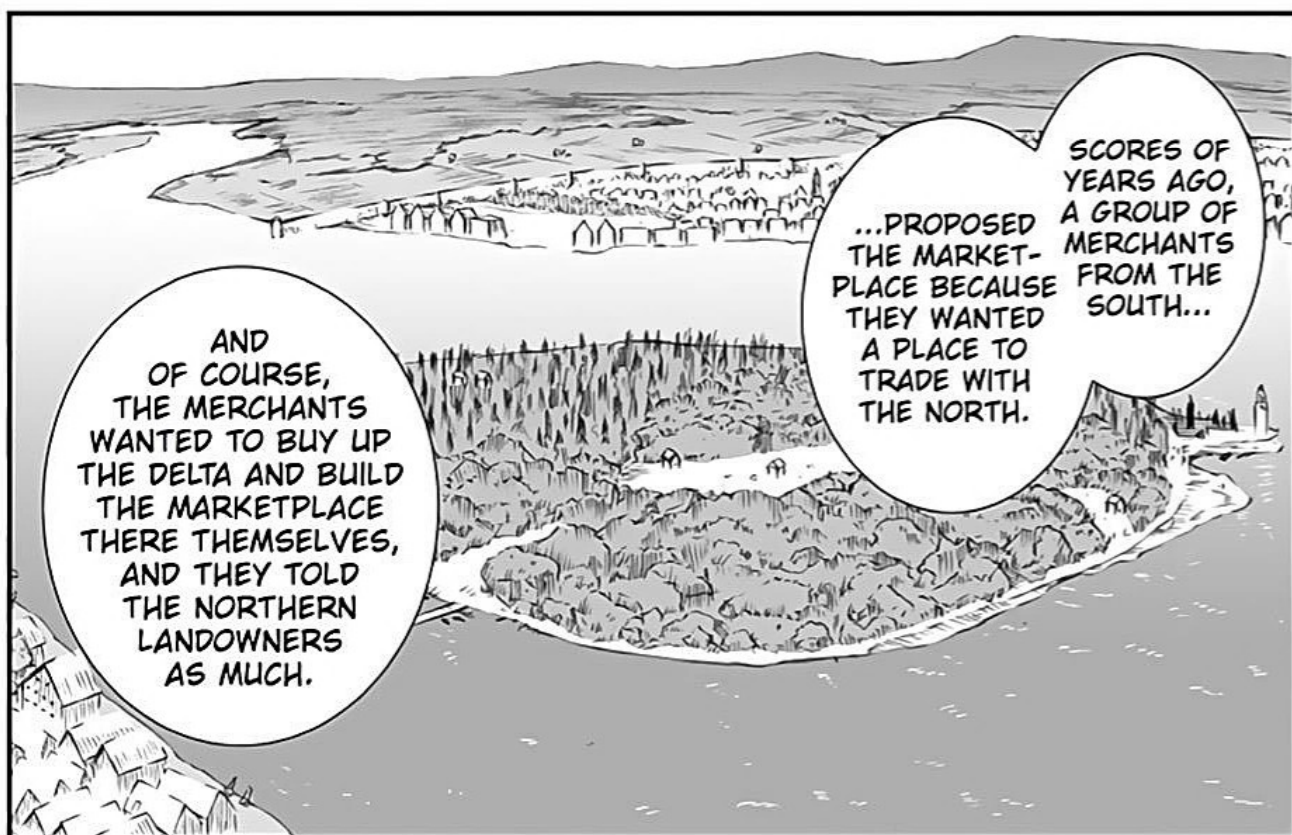
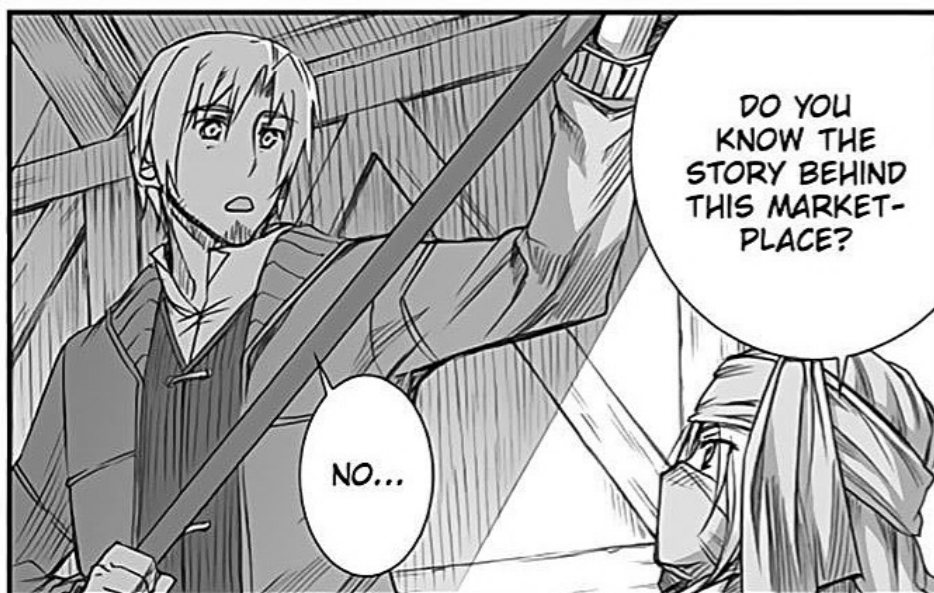
I'LL ROW,
THEN.

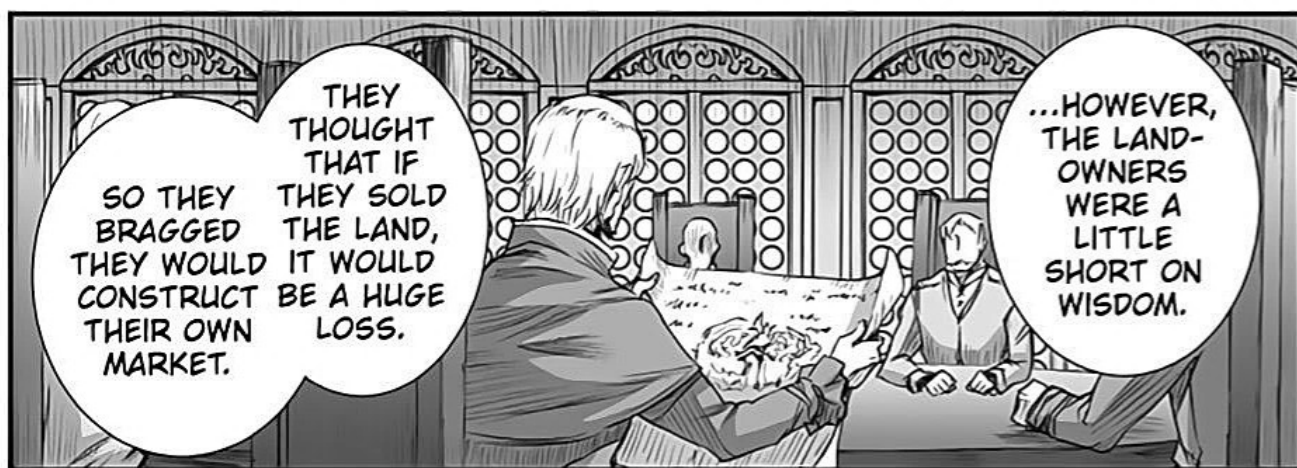
ゴト
GOTO
(THUNK)

I WAS
RIGHT TO
SPOT YOU
AND CALL
YOU OVER.







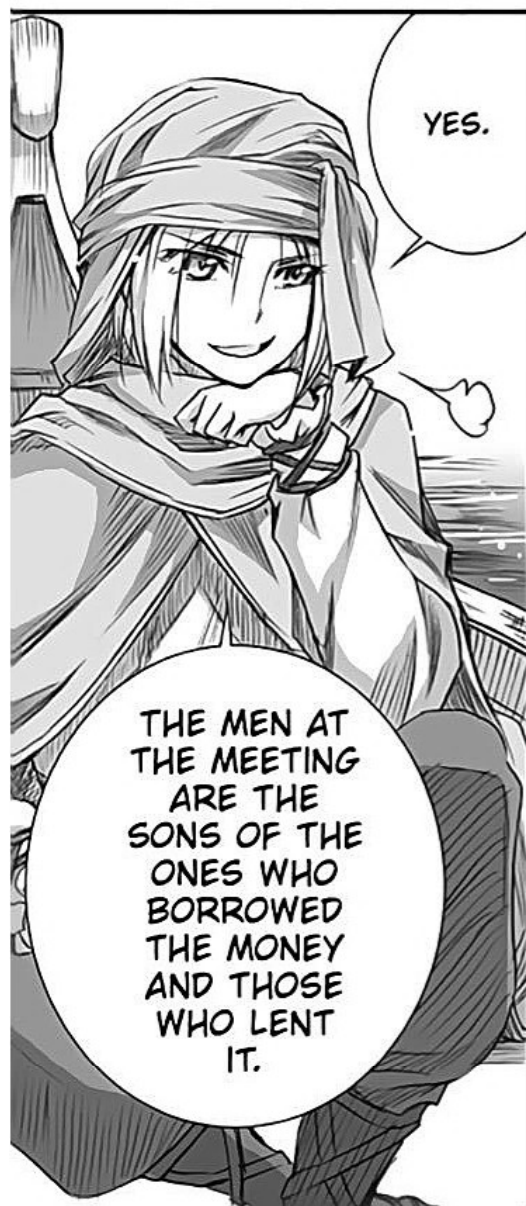


SO THEY
BRAGGED
THEY WOULD
CONSTRUCT
THEIR OWN
MARKET.

THEY
THOUGHT
THAT IF
THEY SOLD
THE LAND,
IT WOULD
BE A HUGE
LOSS.

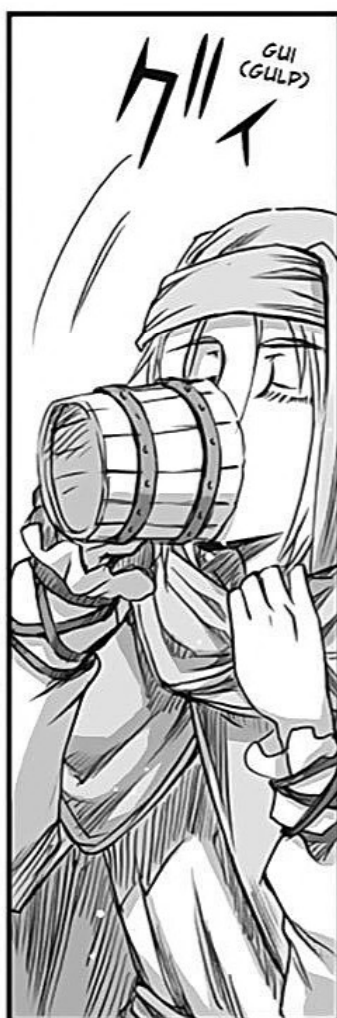
...HOWEVER,
THE LAND-
OWNERS
WERE A
LITTLE
SHORT ON
WISDOM.

—EVEN
IF IT DROVE
THEM INTO
A DEEP
DEBT.



YES.

THE MEN AT
THE MEETING
ARE THE
SONS OF THE
ONES WHO
BORROWED
THE MONEY
AND THOSE
WHO LENT
IT.



GUI
(GULP)



I SEE...
THE LAND-
HOLDERS
WERE
FROM THE
NORTH.

THE
MONEY-
LENDERS
WERE
FROM THE
SOUTH?

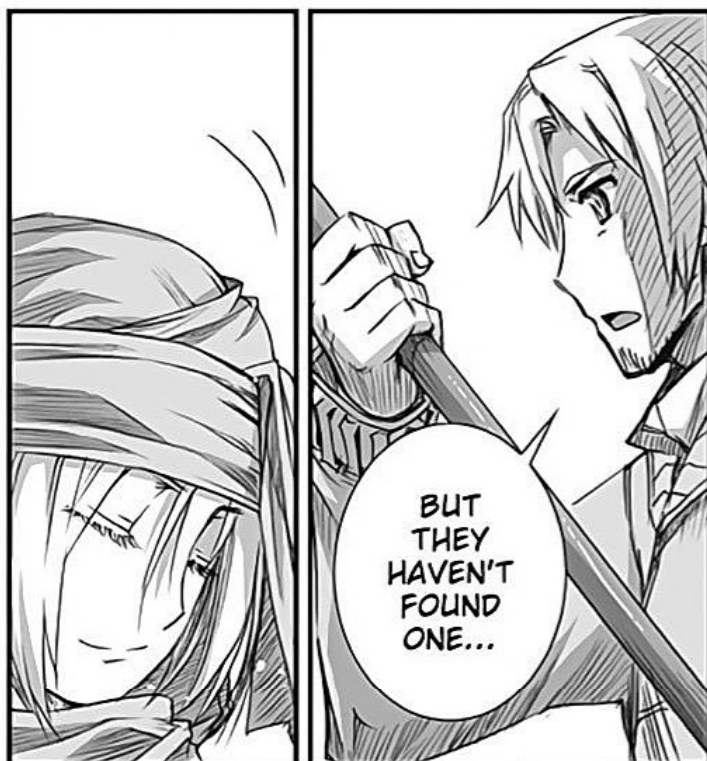


OF COURSE, THE LANDOWNERS CAN'T HIDE THEIR IRRITATION AT THIS AND ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.

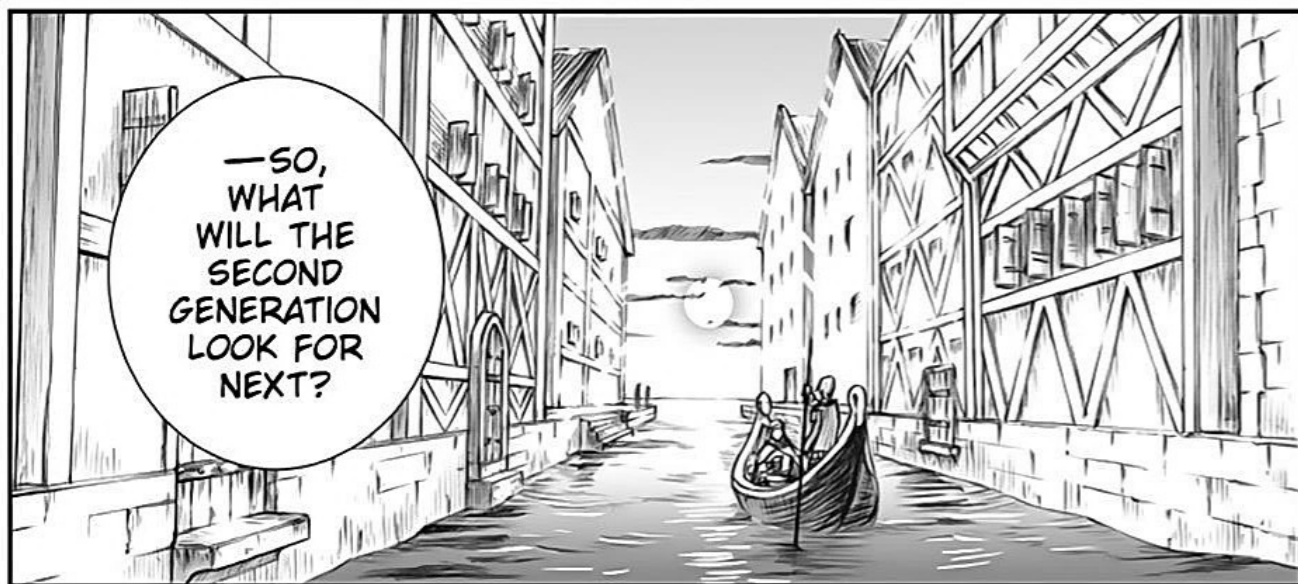


IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT LOSING THE LAND AND RECEIVING EXORBITANT RENT FOR ITS USE...

...THEY WIND UP PAYING AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF INTEREST TO THE SOUTHERN MERCHANTS.



BUT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND ONE...



—SO, WHAT WILL THE SECOND GENERATION LOOK FOR NEXT?

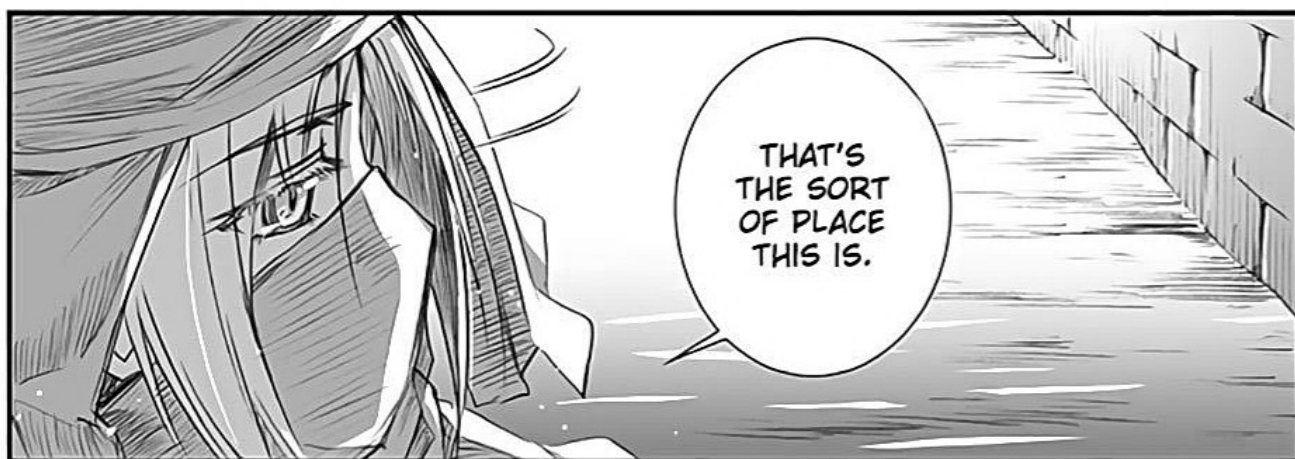


...BUT EVEN
A PLACE THAT
DEALS ONLY
IN COPPER
EXPORTS HAS
ITS PROFIT
SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
POWERS
THAT BE.

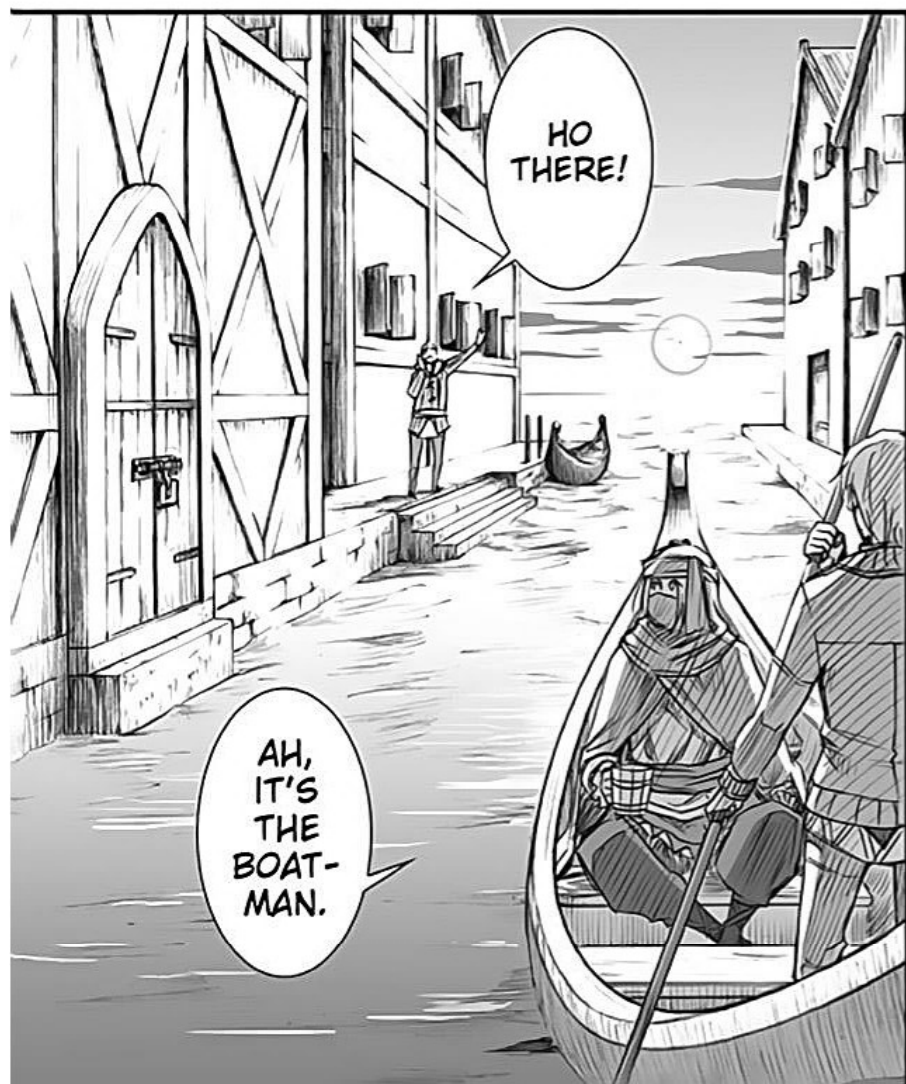


KUH!
KUH!

AT LEAST BE
A LITTLE MORE
CIRCUMSPECT
ABOUT IT!



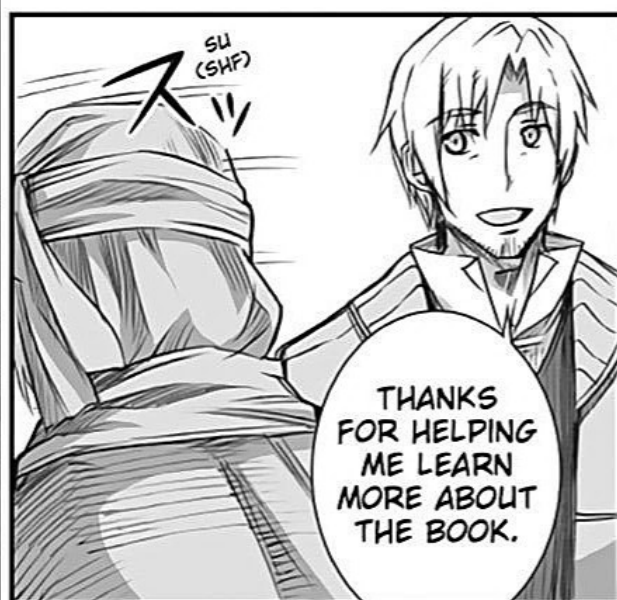
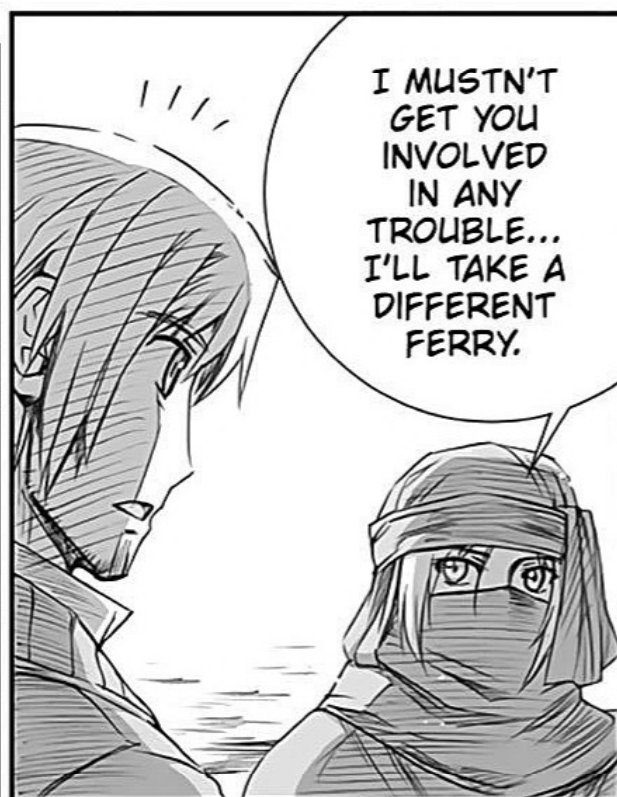
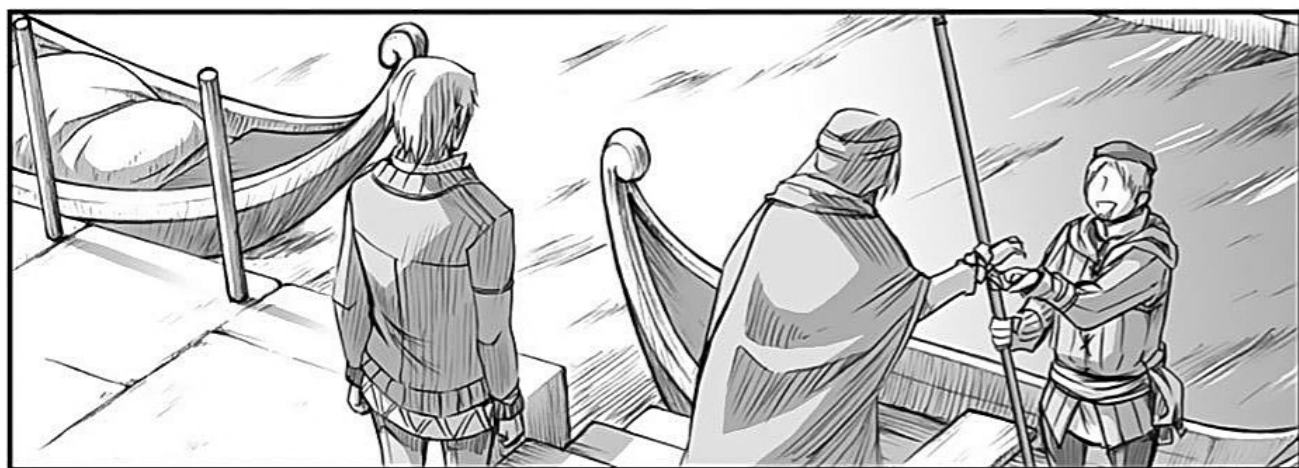
THAT'S
THE SORT
OF PLACE
THIS IS.



HO
THERE!

AH,
IT'S
THE
BOAT-
MAN.





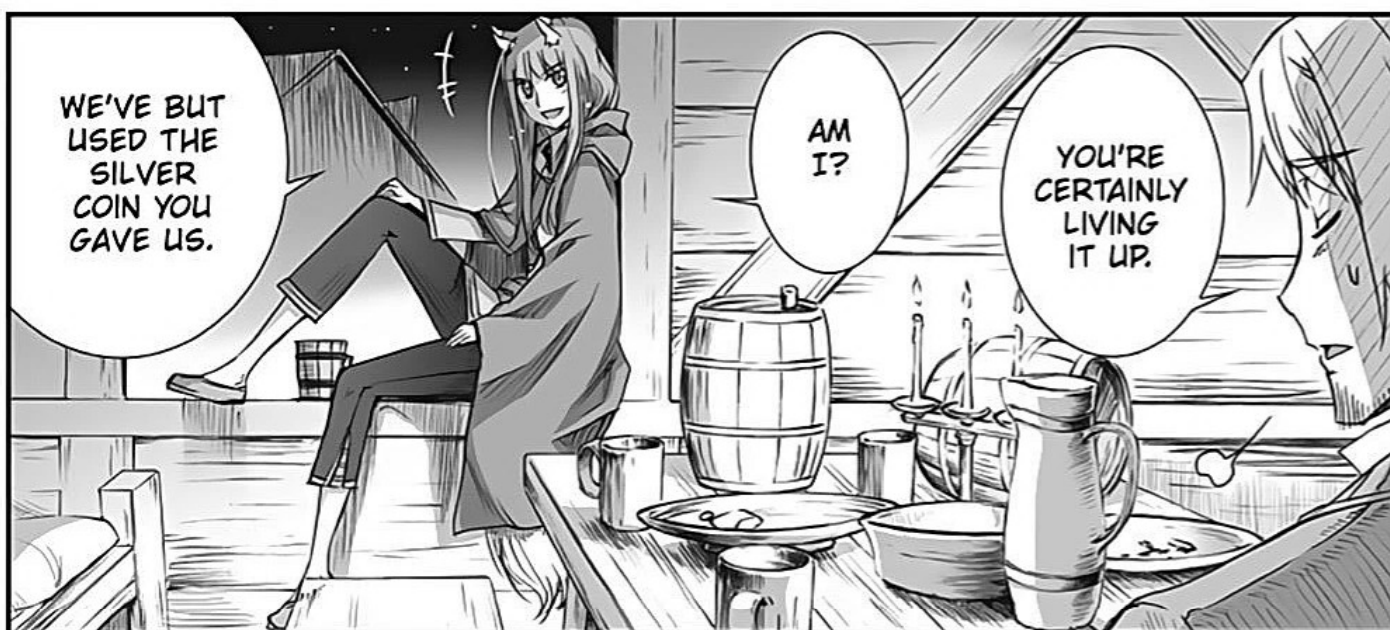
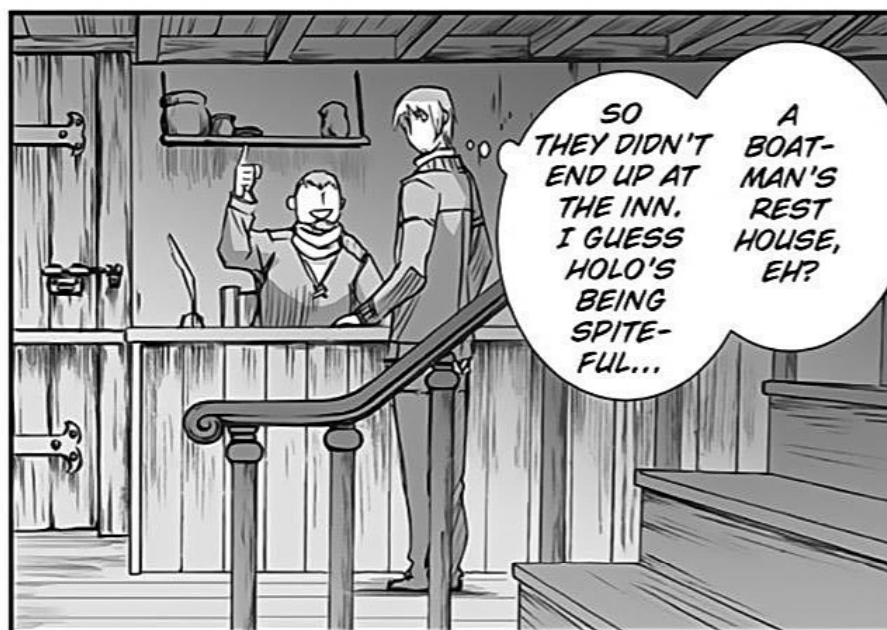
SPICE & WOLF





YOU
THERE.









DID
YOU HEAR
MORE ABOUT
THAT VIXEN'S
CIRCUM-
STANCES?



HA
(GASP)



'TIS
WRITTEN
ALL OVER
YOUR
FACE.

AYE.

GOSHI

GOSHI
(RUB)



—DOES IT
LOOK LIKE
I DID?



YOU'RE A
CENTURY TOO
YOUNG TO TRY
LYING TO ME.



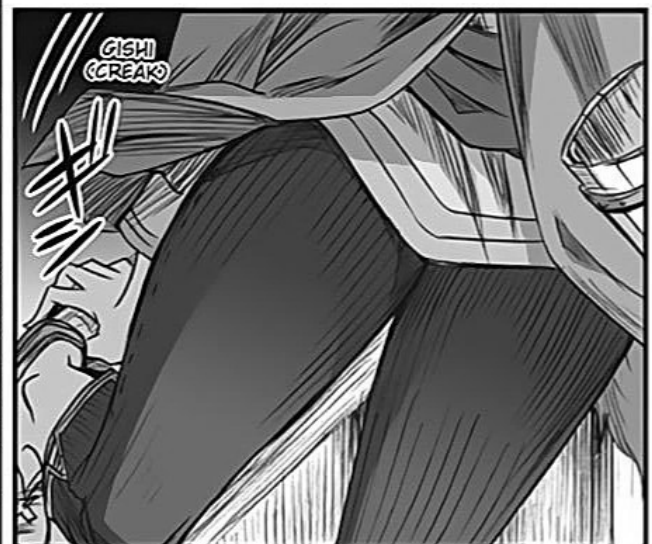
... 'TIS
A BIT
COLD.

GYUMU
(SHOVE)



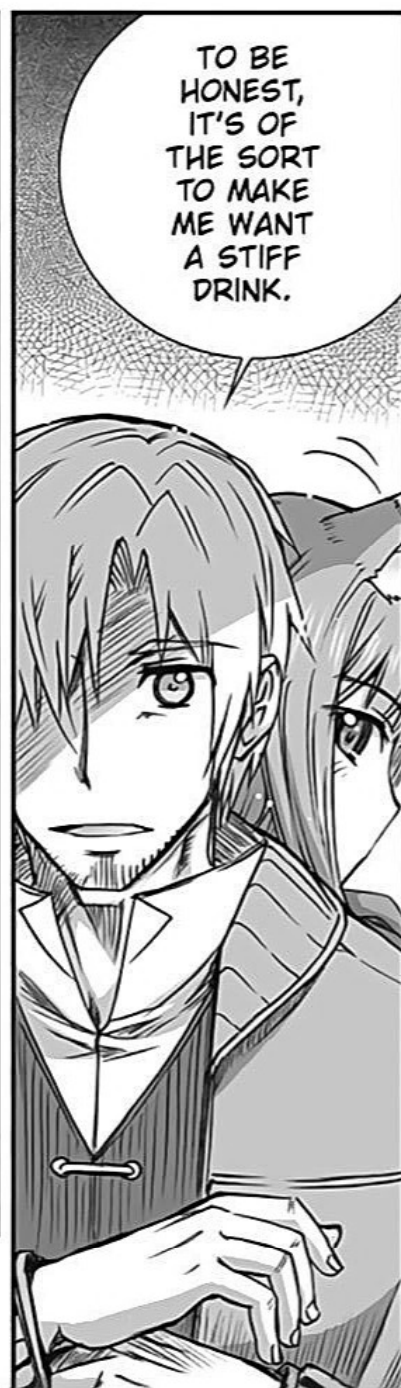
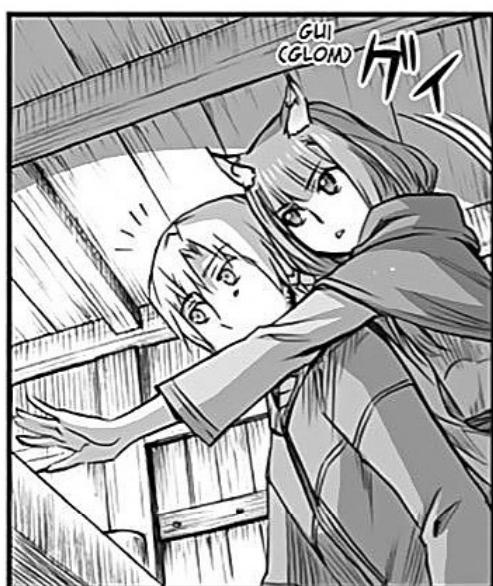
IF YOU'RE
TRIPPED UP
BY SUCH A
RUSE, YOU'VE
MUCH TO
LEARN YET.

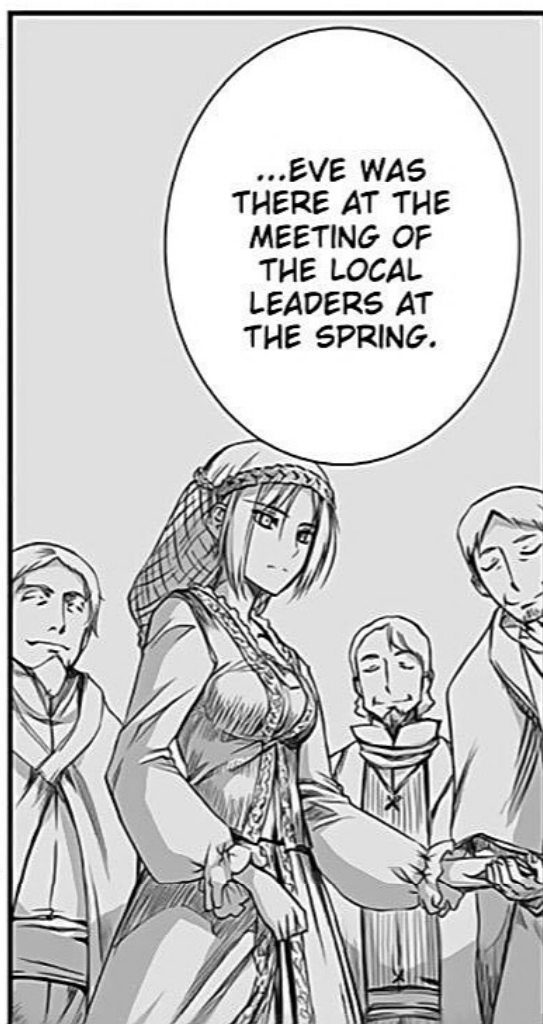
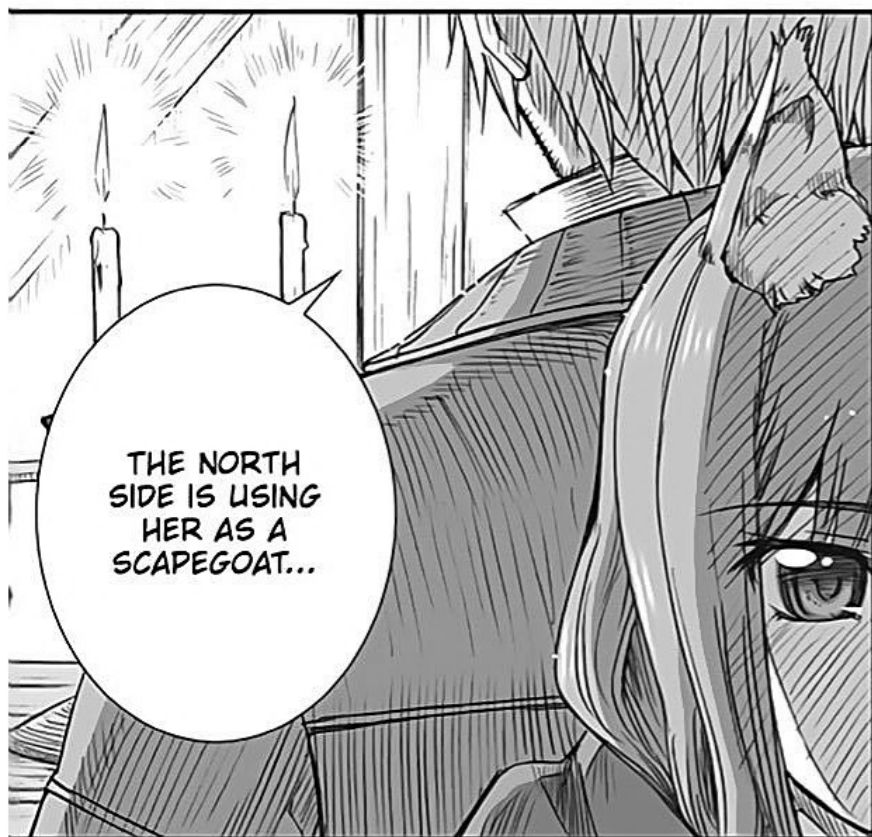
I'LL
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.



GISHI
(CREAK)

GISHI
(CREAK)







LISTEN
HERE,
YOU.

?

GISHI
GLENCH

#



IF A
MERCHANT
LIKE HER CAN
BE TREATED
LIKE THAT...

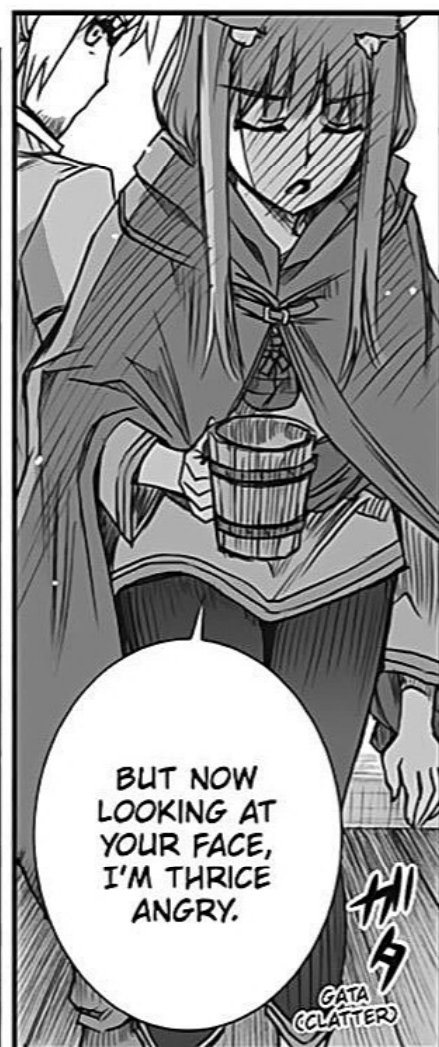
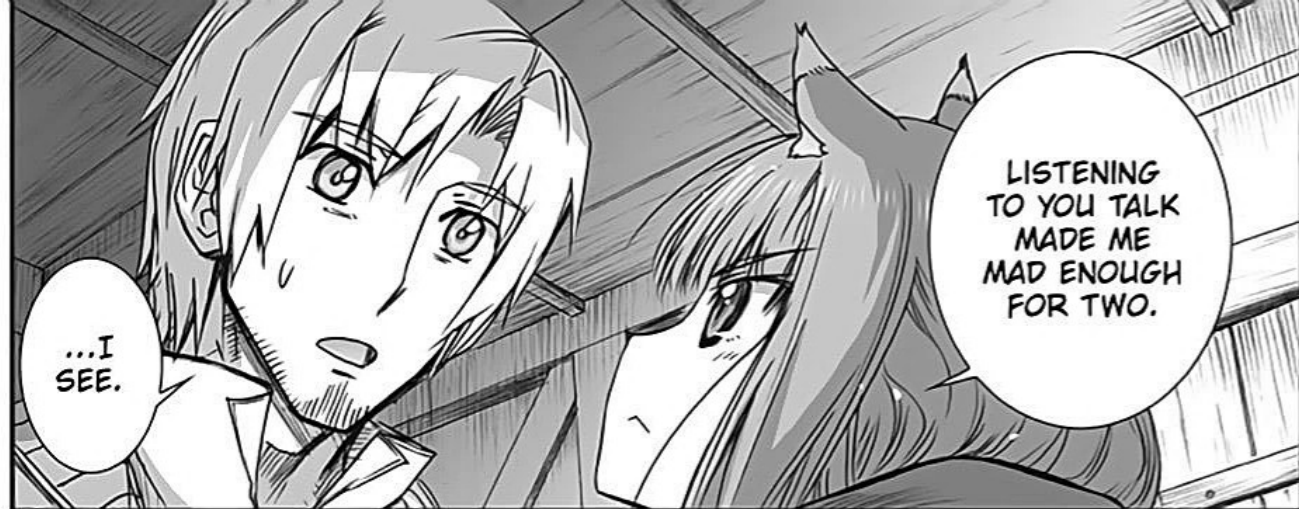


...IT
MAKES ME
WONDER
WHAT'LL
BECOME
OF ME...



—AND IT'S
JUST...

...SAD.





AND AS FOR THE LAST...

GISHI (CREAK)



I WON'T ARGUE.



WHAT ARE YOU, A PUP?

SECONDLY, DESPAIRING AT SUCH A FOOLISH NOTION?



...WHEN ON YOUR FACE—!?

...TO SEE YOU TURN TAIL AND BEHAVE IN A MANNER SO UNBECOMING A FULL-GROWN MALE...

...MY FACE?



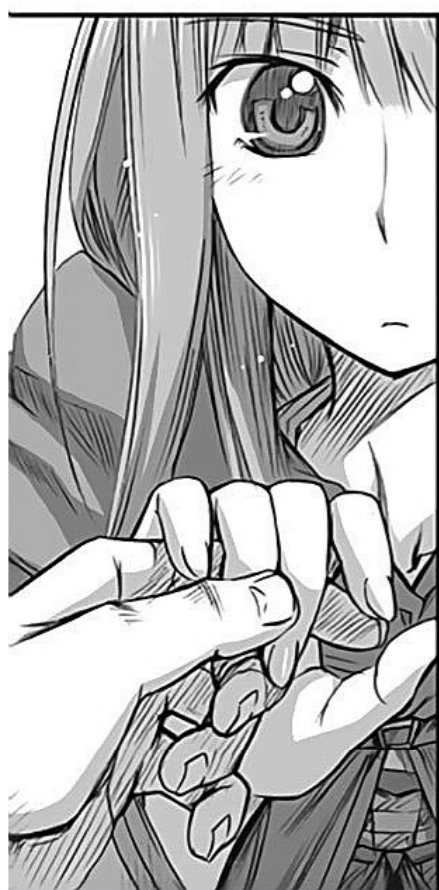
...YOUR
FACE SAYS
YOU COULD
GO OFF ON
YOUR OWN
AT ANY
MOMENT.

YOU SPEAK
OF SUCH
WEAKNESS,
AND YET...



BUT IF I LOOKED AS
THOUGH I COULDN'T
CONTINUE ON ALONE,
YOU'D RAIL AT ME
WITHOUT MERCY,
WOULD YOU NOT?

.....

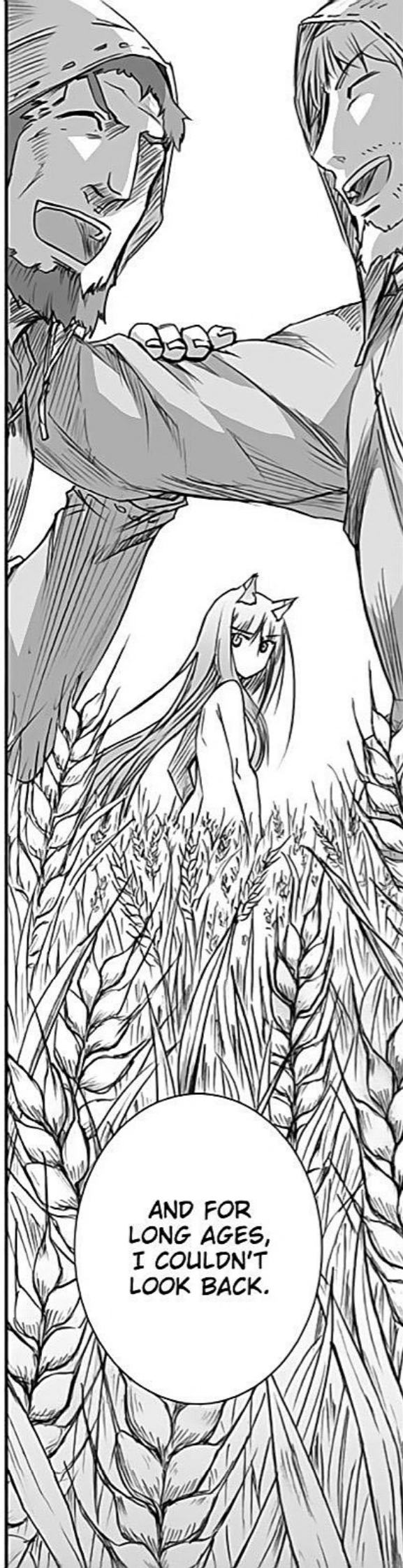


I'D...JUST AS
SOON AVOID
THAT...

NATU-
RALLY, I
WOULD!

I'D RAIL
AT YOU,
TOY WITH
YOU, AND
TEASE
YOU!







.....YOU
KNOW THAT
I'M A COWARD,
DON'T YOU?



EVEN WHEN
CONFESSING
HER WEAKNESS,
THE WISEWOLF
OF YOITSU
DOES SO IN
GRAND
FORM.



SO
DON'T
WORRY
ON THAT
COUNT.

I'M
CONSTANTLY
LOOKING
OVER MY
SHOULDER,
TERRIFIED.

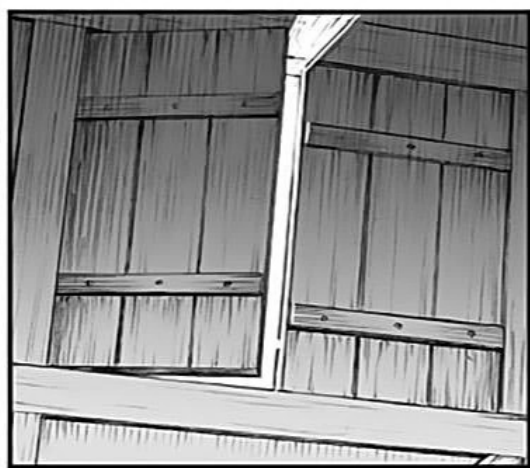


.....
REALLY,
NOW.

I'M
TIRED
OF THAT
TOO!



.....STILL,
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
STRANGE?



AT
SOME POINT,
I SEEM TO
HAVE BECOME
THE ONE WHO
COMFORTS
YOU.

'TIS MY
PARTICULAR
PRIVILEGE,
THAT IS
WHY!

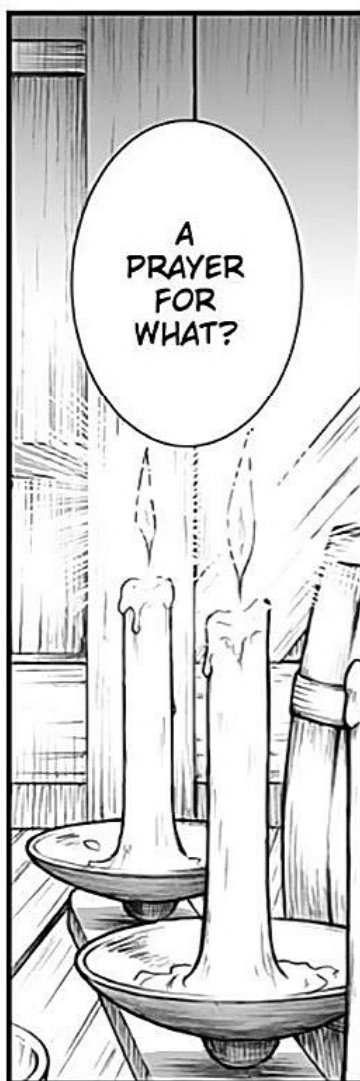


HONESTLY
.....



...I
HATE THAT
THINGS ARE
CHANGED LEFT
AND RIGHT
WITHOUT MY
THOUGHTS
BEING
SOLICITED.

DESPITE
YOUR
OFFERING
TO ME...



A
PRAYER
FOR
WHAT?



HA
HA
HA...

I SHOULD
THINK ONE IS
NECESSARY
FOR PRAYER.



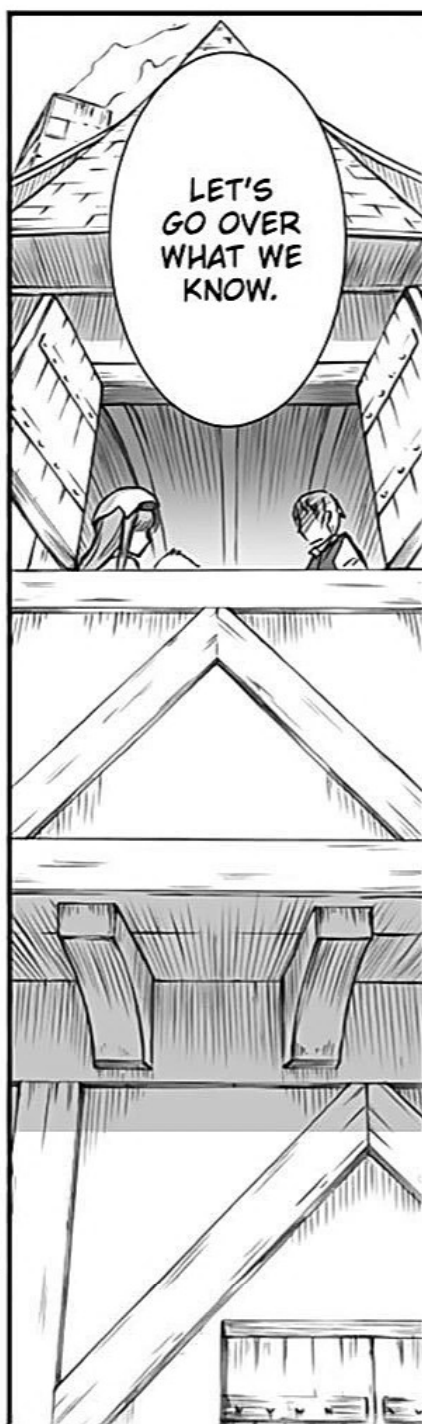
SO MY
FEELINGS
ARE AN
OFFERING?





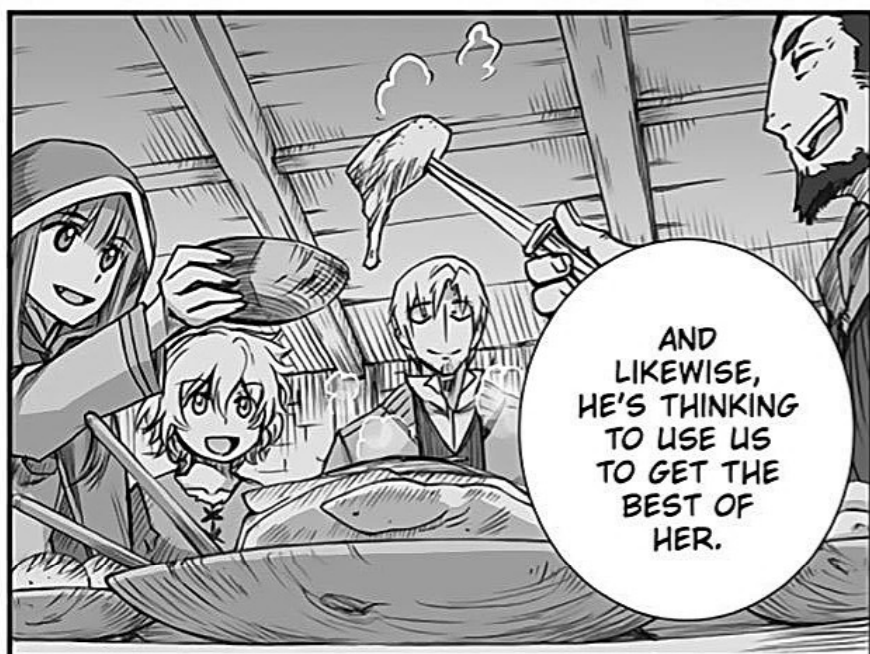
FROM
WHAT EVE SAID
YESTERDAY,
IT SEEMS
REYNOLDS HAS
INDEED NOT
GIVEN UP THE
SEARCH FOR
THE BOOK.

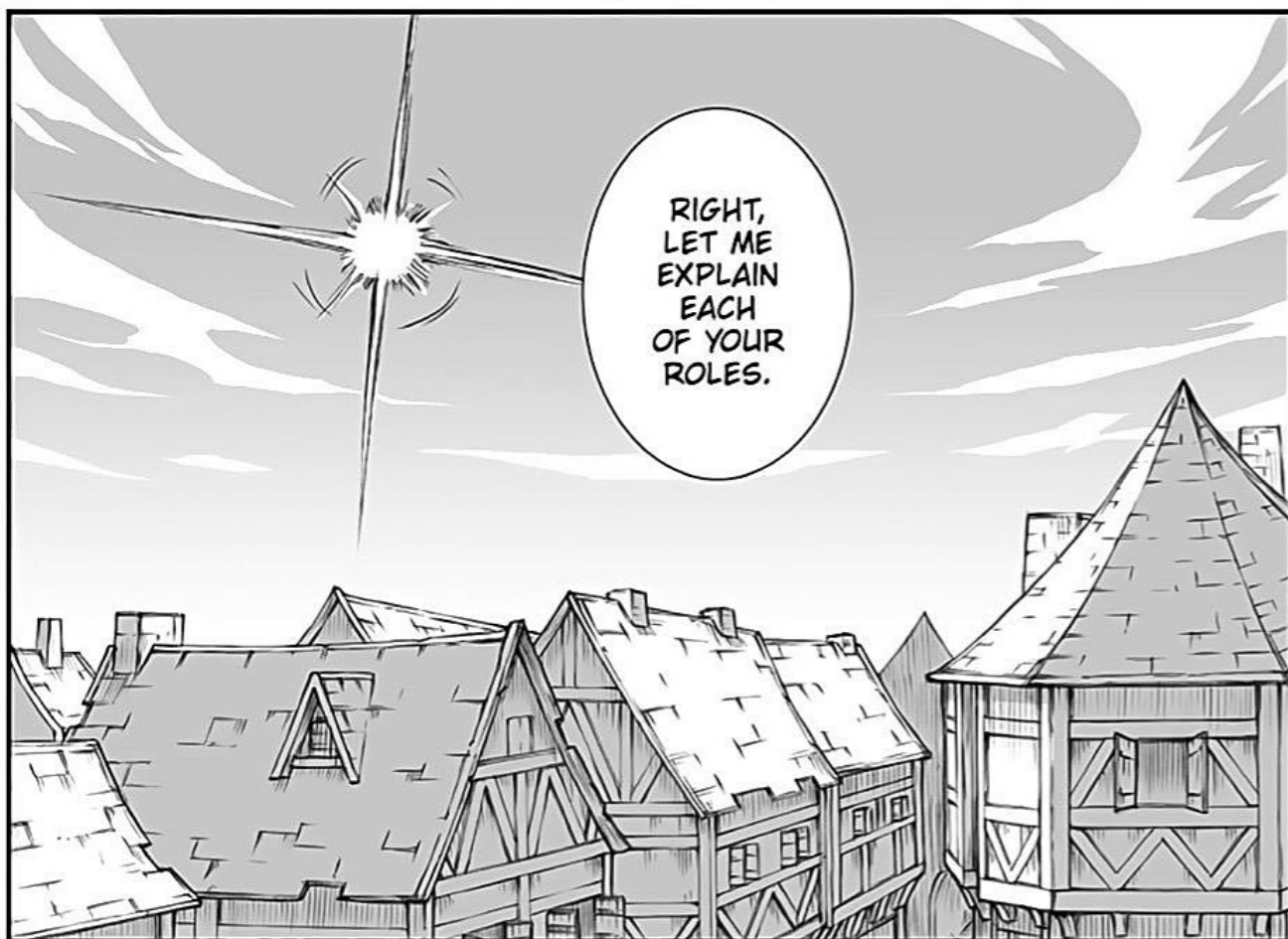
IT APPEARS
THE NORTHERN
MERCHANTS ARE
BEING SQUEEZED
BY THE SOUTHERN
LANDOWNERS, SO
THEY'RE KEEN
TO FIND SOME
WAY TO BRING IN
A HUGE LUMP
OF MONEY TO
ESCAPE.

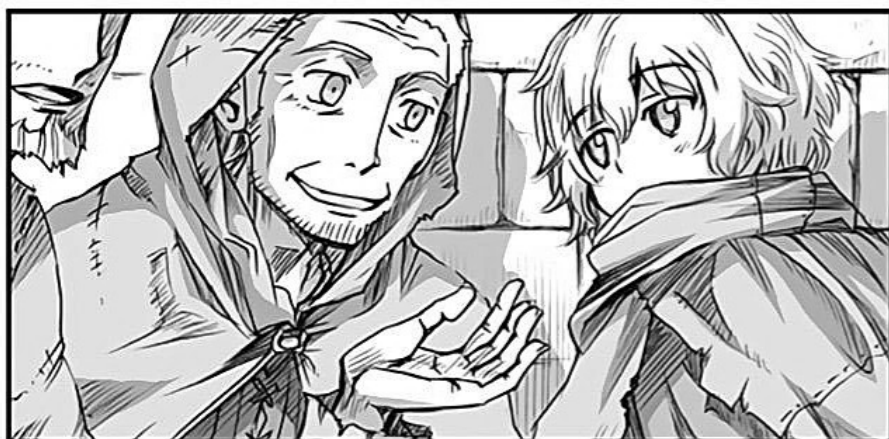


LET'S
GO OVER
WHAT WE
KNOW.





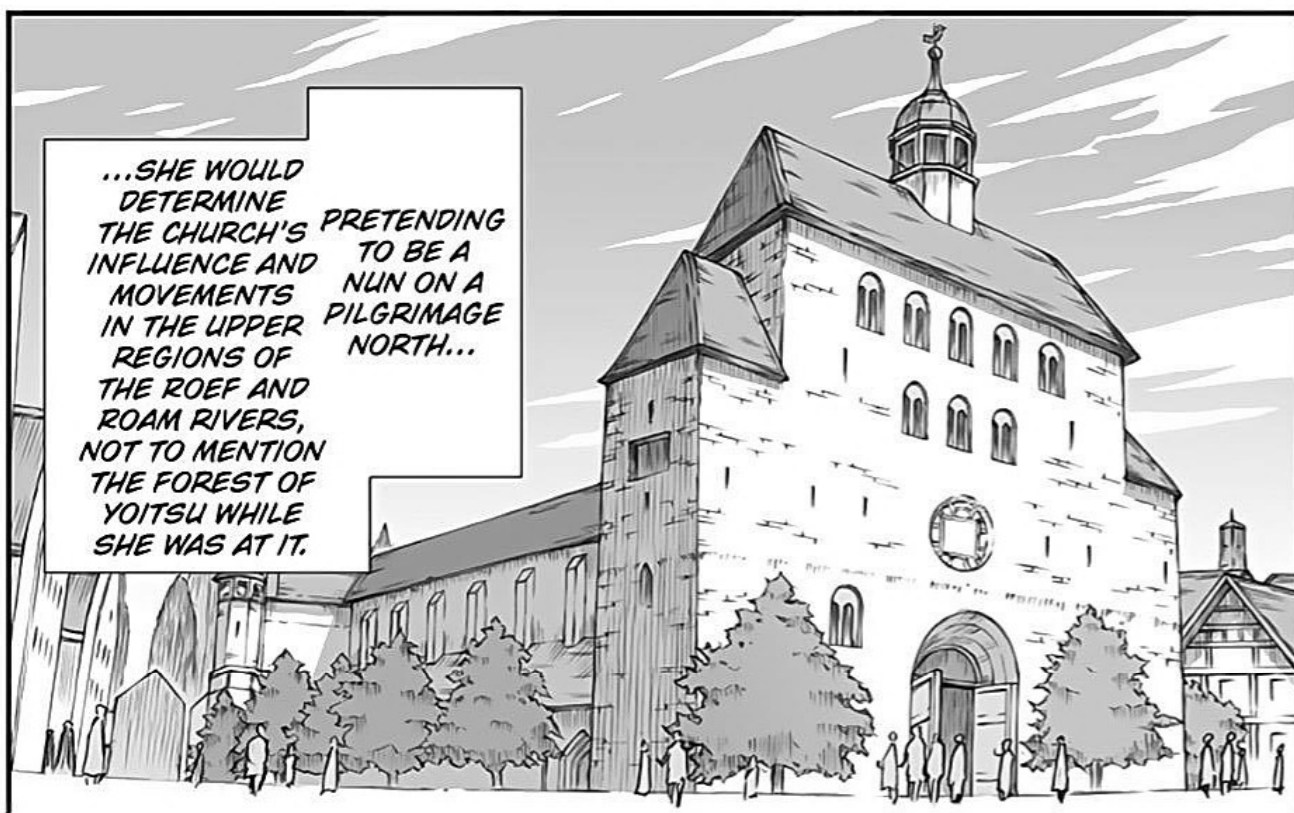
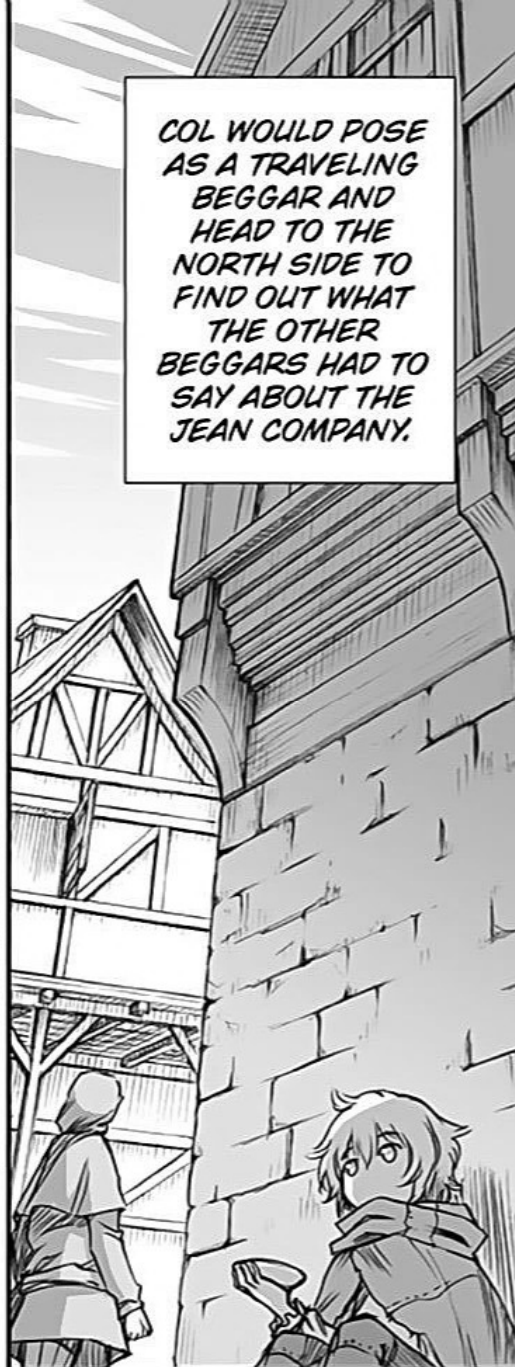




COL WOULD POSE
AS A TRAVELING
BEGGAR AND
HEAD TO THE
NORTH SIDE TO
FIND OUT WHAT
THE OTHER
BEGGARS HAD TO
SAY ABOUT THE
JEAN COMPANY.

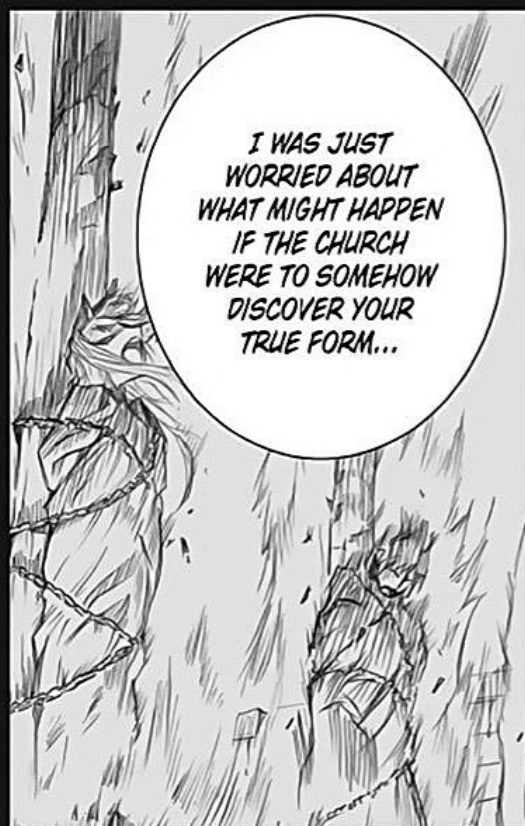
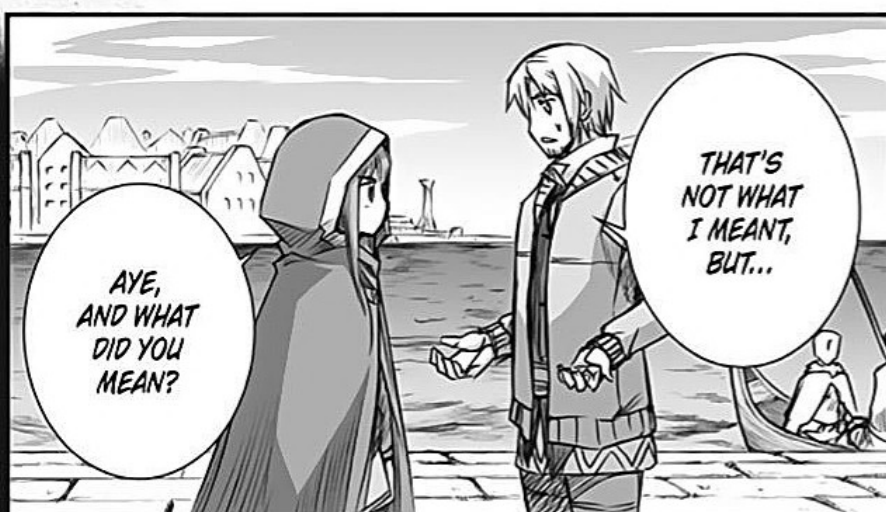


HOO WOULD
MAKE FOR THE
SOUTH-SIDE
CHURCH.



...SHE WOULD
DETERMINE
THE CHURCH'S
INFLUENCE AND
MOVEMENTS
IN THE UPPER
REGIONS OF
THE ROEF AND
ROAM RIVERS,
NOT TO MENTION
THE FOREST OF
YOITSU WHILE
SHE WAS AT IT.

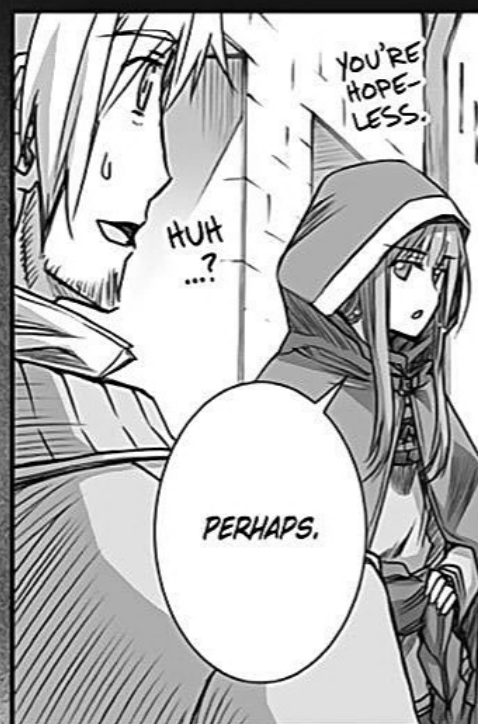
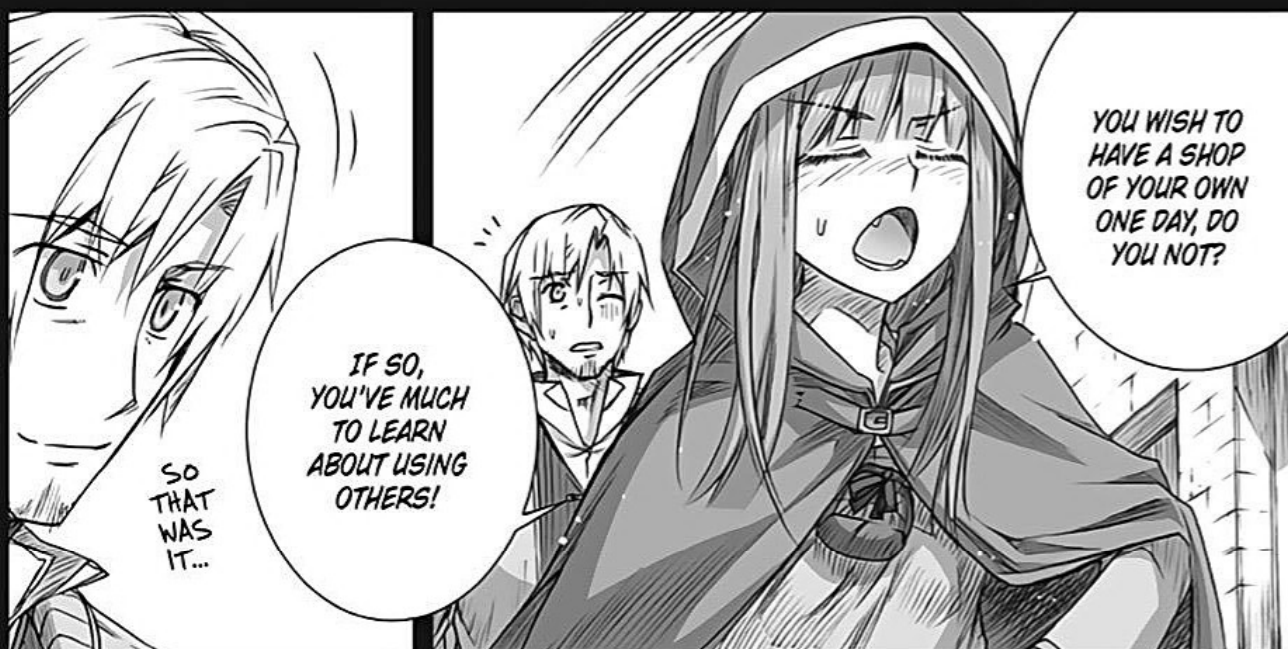
PRETENDING
TO BE A
NUN ON A
PILGRIMAGE
NORTH...









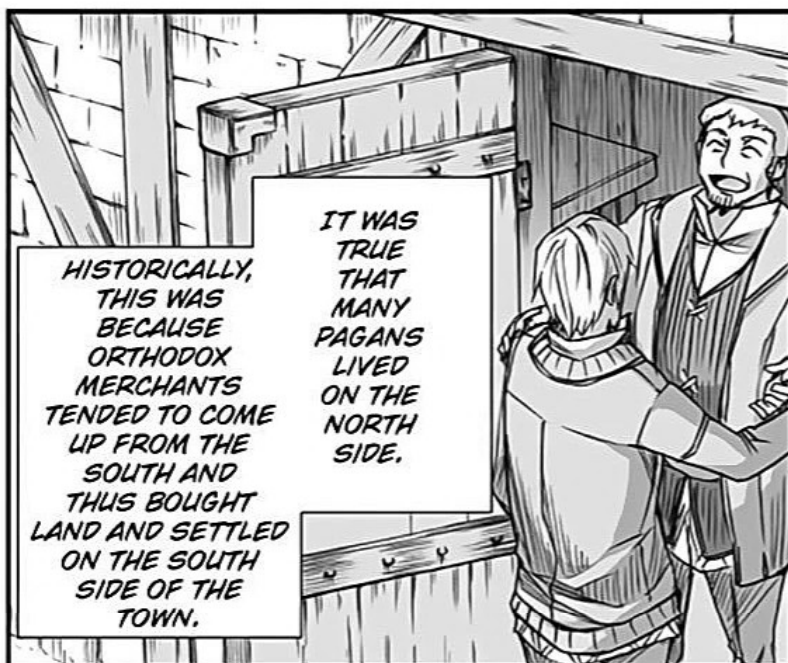


KERUBE HAD
CHURCHES
ONLY ON
THE DELTA
AND THE
SOUTH SIDE.

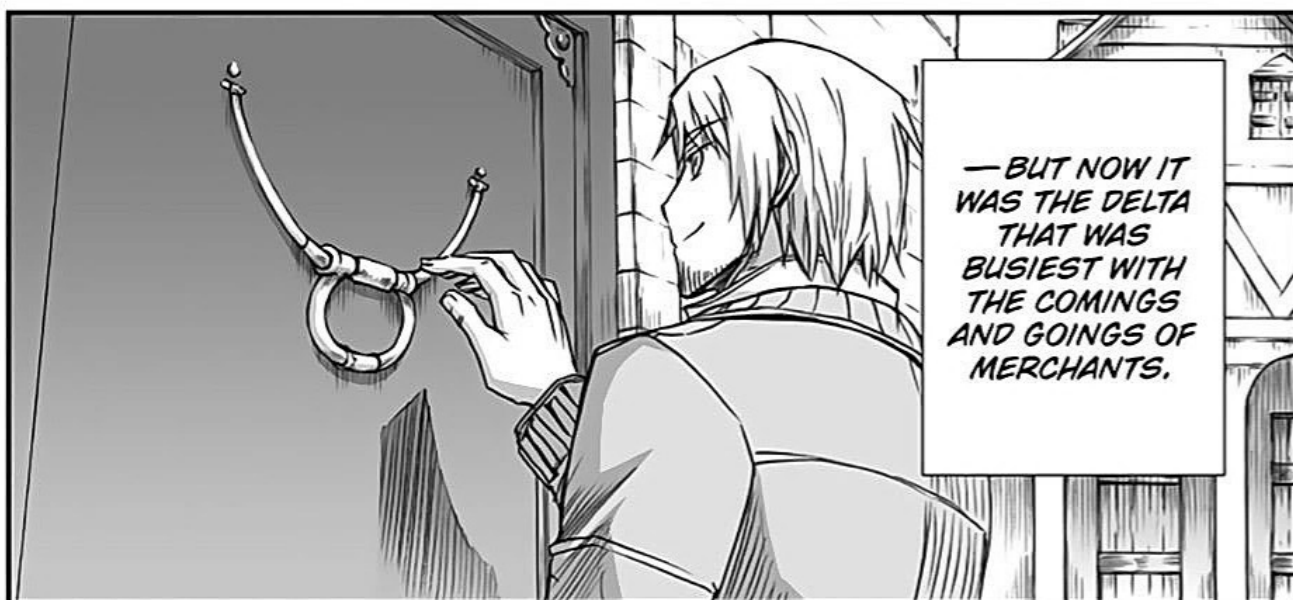


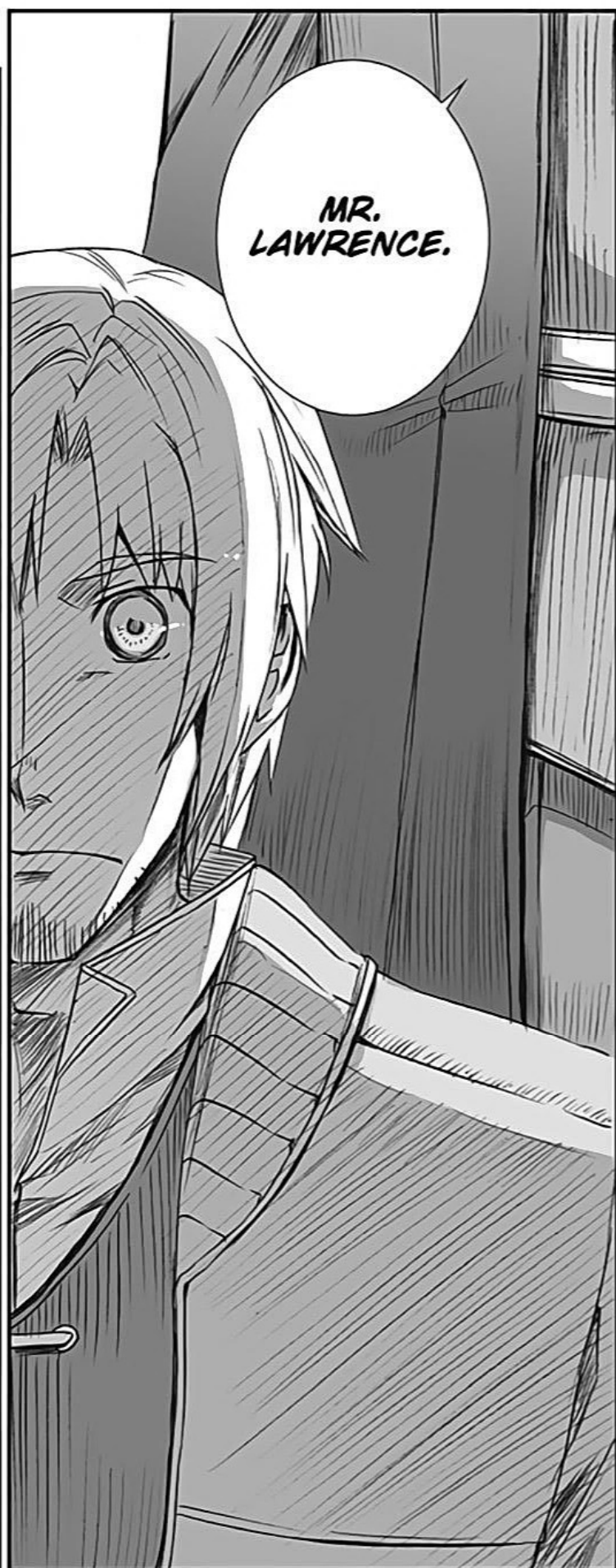
HISTORICALLY,
THIS WAS
BECAUSE
ORTHODOX
MERCHANTS
TENDED TO COME
UP FROM THE
SOUTH AND
THUS BOUGHT
LAND AND SETTLED
ON THE SOUTH
SIDE OF THE
TOWN.

IT WAS
TRUE
THAT
MANY
PAGANS
LIVED
ON THE
NORTH
SIDE.



— BUT NOW IT
WAS THE DELTA
THAT WAS
BUSIEST WITH
THE COMINGS
AND GOINGS OF
MERCHANTS.





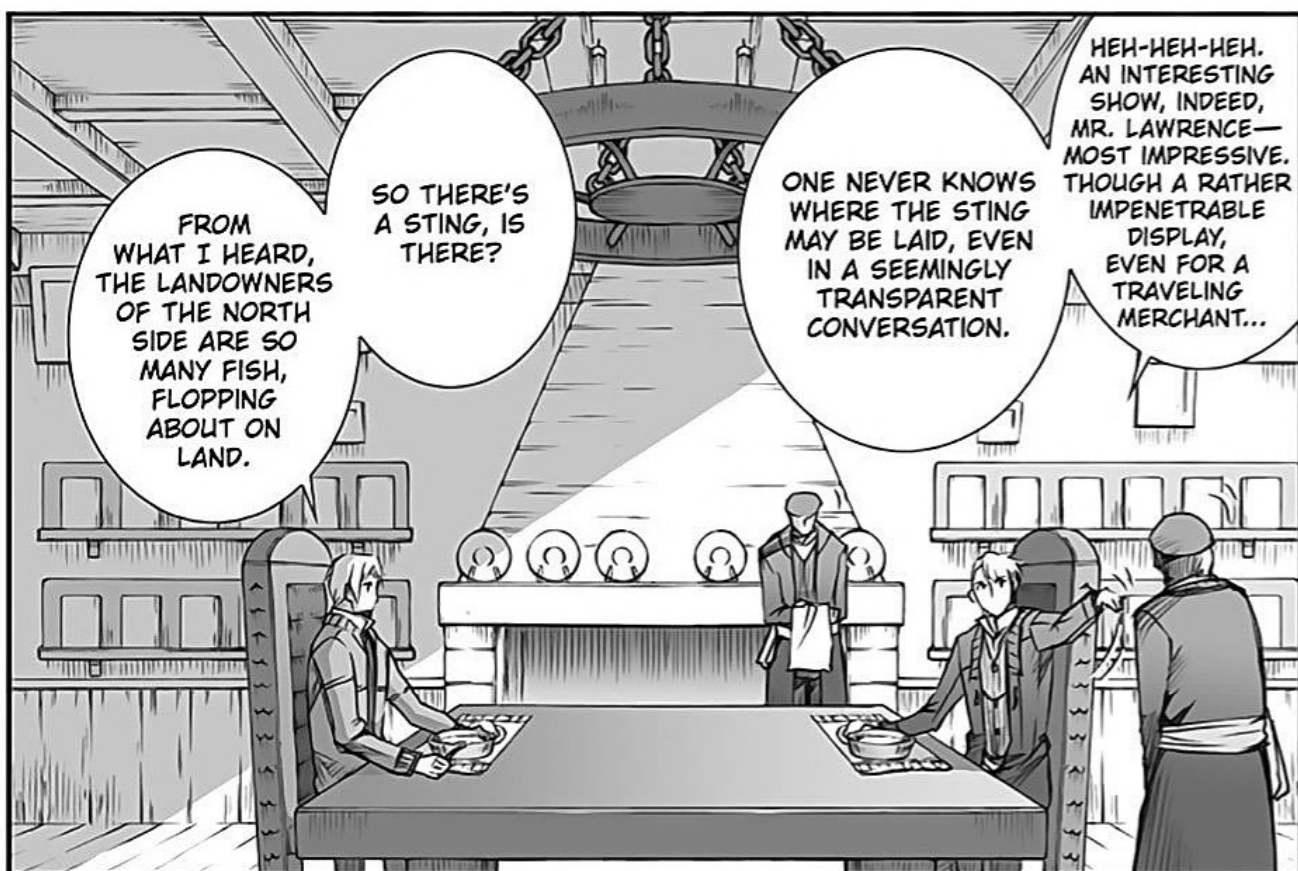




OF COURSE
THERE WERE
GUILD MEMBERS
THERE...
DO THEY
CARE WHAT I
WAS PAYING
ATTENTION
TO?



YES,
I SAW
RATHER AN
INTERESTING
SHOW
THERE.



FROM
WHAT I HEARD,
THE LANDOWNERS
OF THE NORTH
SIDE ARE SO
MANY FISH,
FLOPPING
ABOUT ON
LAND.

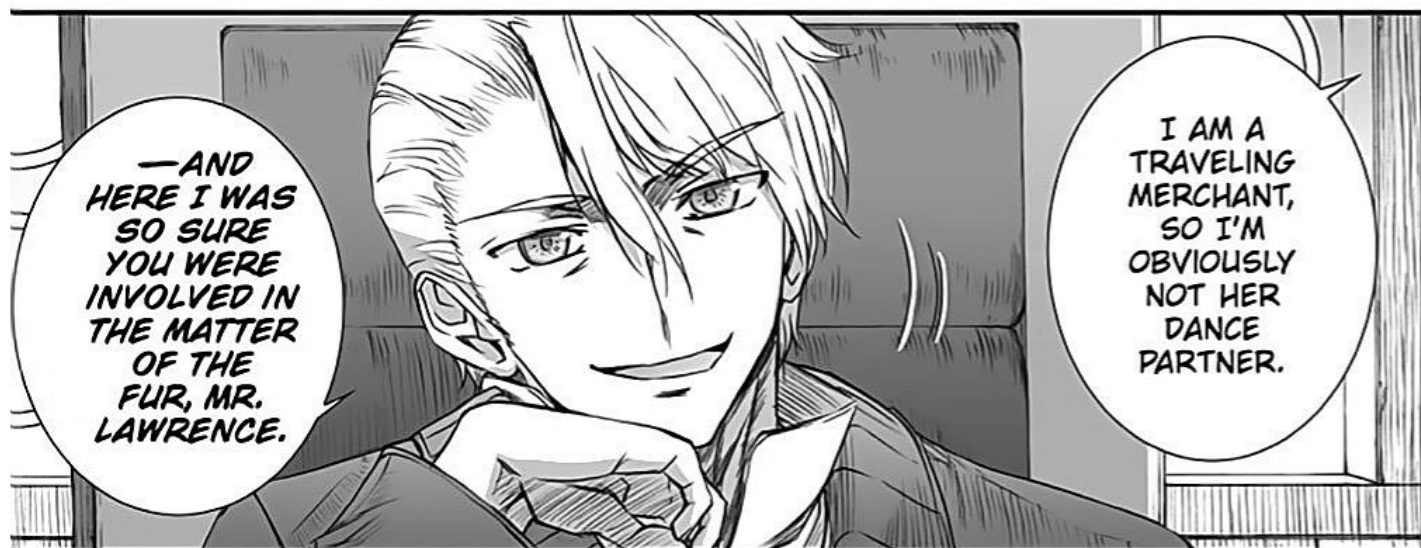
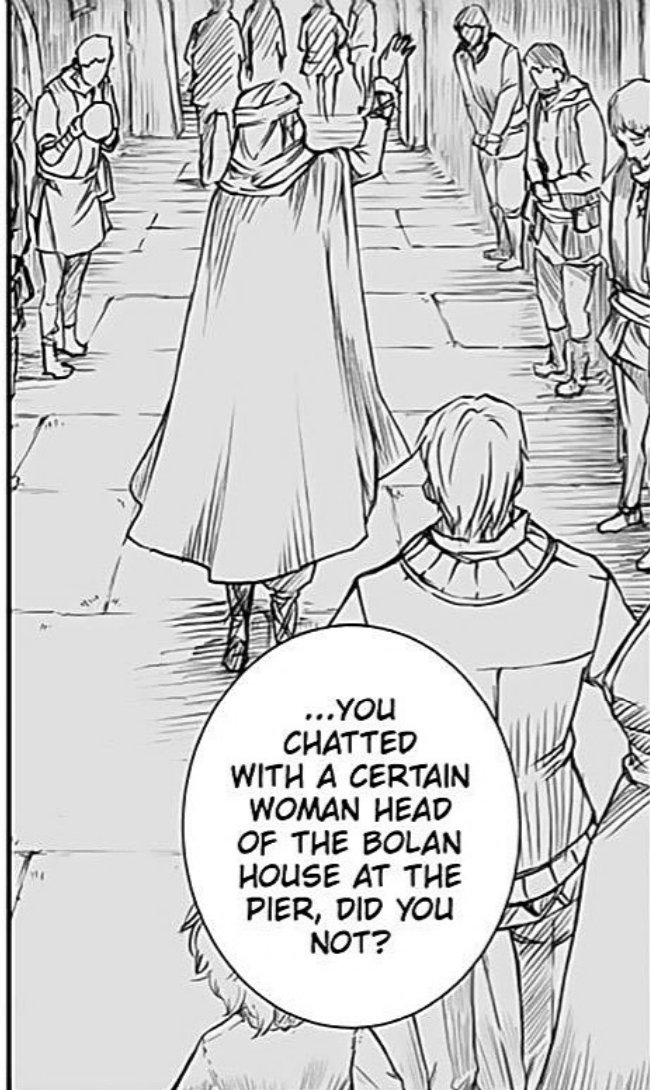
SO THERE'S
A STING, IS
THERE?

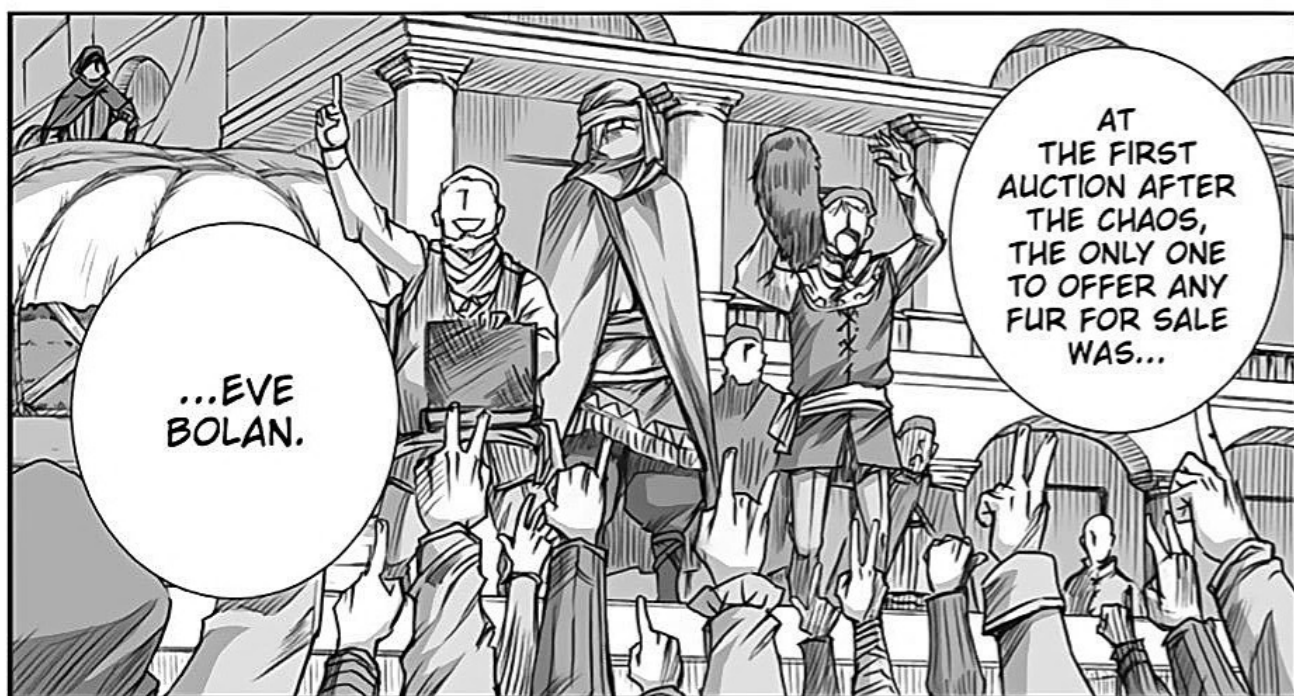
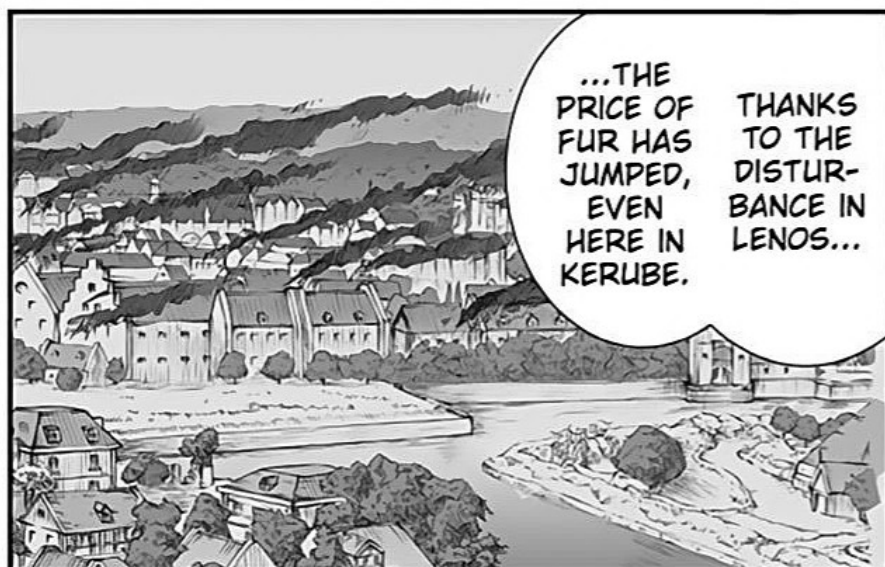
ONE NEVER KNOWS
WHERE THE STING
MAY BE LAID, EVEN
IN A SEEMINGLY
TRANSPARENT
CONVERSATION.

HEH-HEH-HEH.
AN INTERESTING
SHOW, INDEED,
MR. LAWRENCE—
MOST IMPRESSIVE.
THOUGH A RATHER
IMPENETRABLE
DISPLAY,
EVEN FOR A
TRAVELING
MERCHANT...



THAT
WOULD BE
TRUE...IF OUR
OPPONENTS
WERE ONLY
THE LAND-
OWNERS.







I SEE...



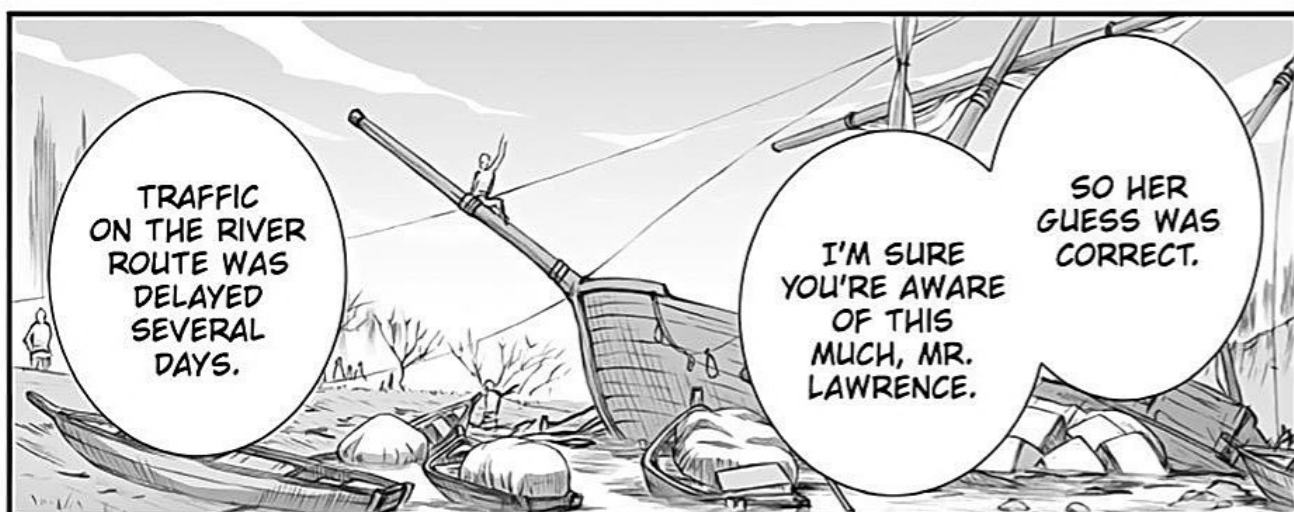
THE RIVER WAS PACKED WITH LARGE BOATS HEADED DOWNRIVER.

MANY OF THOSE WERE HELMED BY INEXPERIENCED SAILORS ASSEMBLED IN A HURRY.



NORMALLY, THE RIVER IS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET FURS FROM LENOS TO THE DELTA...

BUT THAT VIXEN TOOK AN OVERLAND ROUTE.



TRAFFIC ON THE RIVER ROUTE WAS DELAYED SEVERAL DAYS.

I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS MUCH, MR. LAWRENCE.

SO HER GUESS WAS CORRECT.



I SEE...
SO YOU REALLY
DON'T KNOW,
DO YOU?



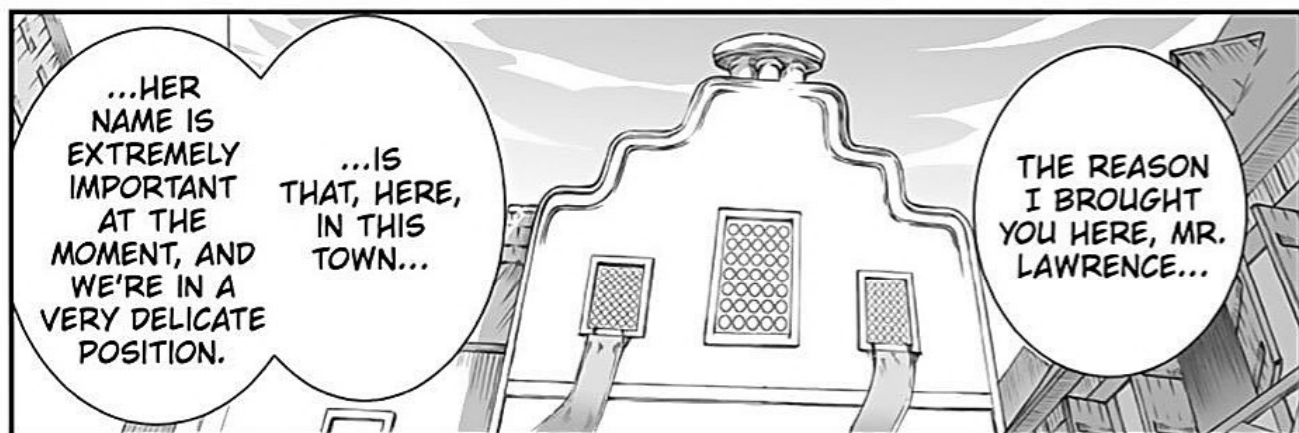
EVE WAS THE
ONE WHO SET
UP THE BOAT
RUNNING
AGROUND
...?

—SOUNDS
LIKE SHE
HAS SOME
IMPRESSIVE
ABILITIES.



THANKS TO
THAT LITTLE
"ACCIDENT"
...

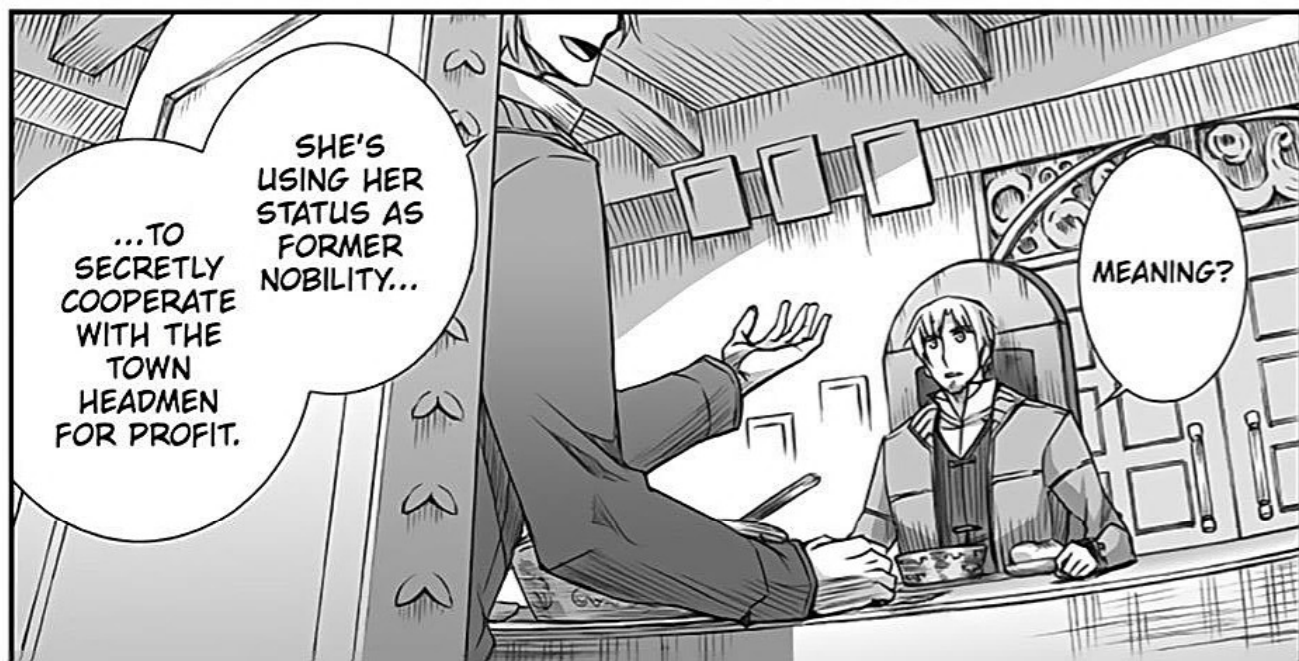
...THEY
SAY EVE
BOLAN MADE
A HUGE
PROFIT.



...HER
NAME IS
EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT
AT THE
MOMENT, AND
WE'RE IN A
VERY DELICATE
POSITION.

...IS
THAT, HERE,
IN THIS
TOWN...

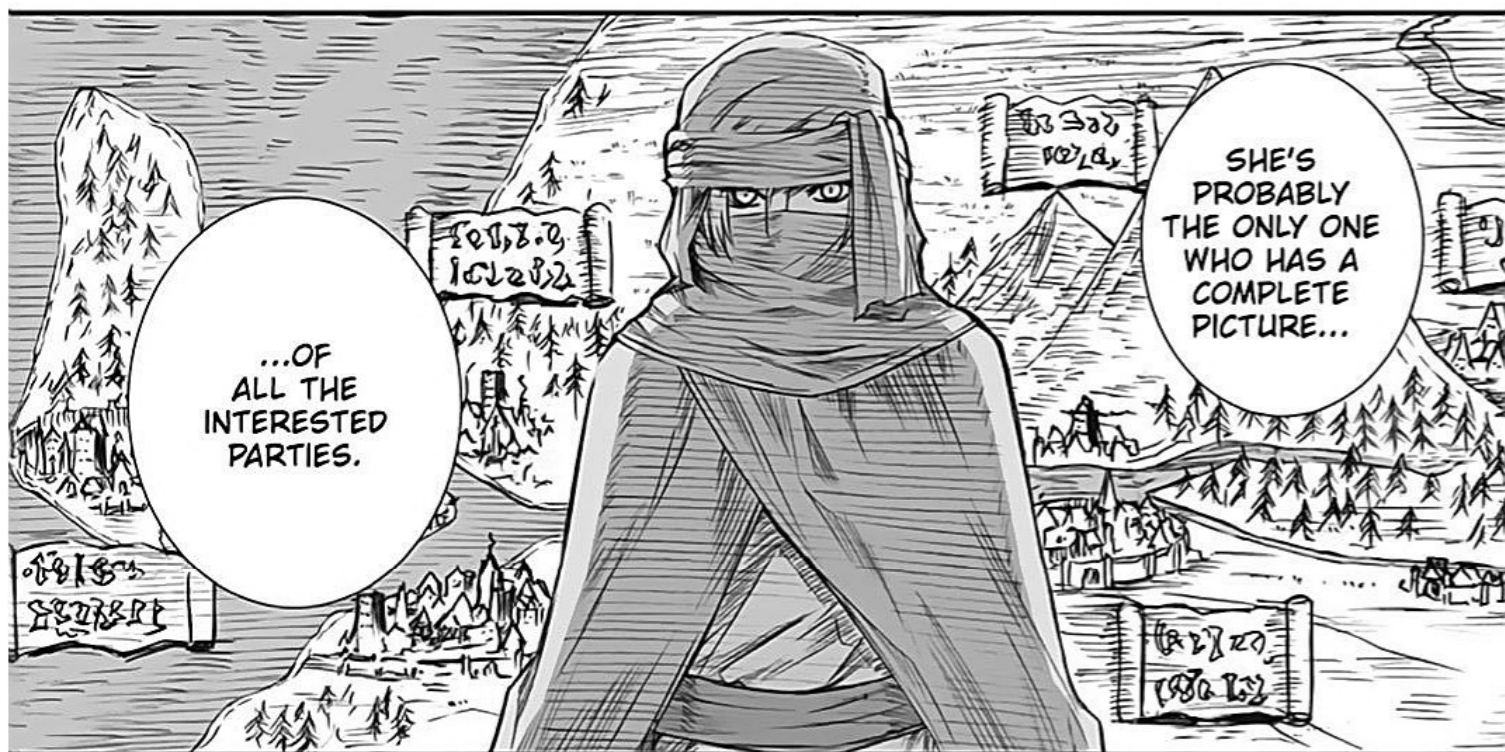
THE REASON
I BROUGHT
YOU HERE, MR.
LAWRENCE...



...TO
SECRETLY
COOPERATE
WITH THE
TOWN
HEADMEN
FOR PROFIT.

SHE'S
USING HER
STATUS AS
FORMER
NOBILITY...

MEANING?



...OF
ALL THE
INTERESTED
PARTIES.

SHE'S
PROBABLY
THE ONLY ONE
WHO HAS A
COMPLETE
PICTURE...



I HAD
NO IDEA
SHE WAS
SO...MUCH
MORE THAN
I IMAGINED
HER TO
BE.

.....



NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT
THE IMPACT
OF MAKING A
SINGLE MISTAKE
IN THEIR
DEALINGS
WITH HER
MIGHT BE.



...THAT
YOU'RE NOT
INVOLVED
WITH HER
IN DOING
BUSINESS
HERE.

WELL, MR.
LAWRENCE,
I'VE
CONFIRMED
...

IT'S A BIT
DISAPPOINTING,
BUT AT THE
SAME TIME,
I'M RELIEVED.

AS A
GUILD, WE ARE
AS CAREFUL IN
DEALING WITH
HER AS WE ARE
IN DEALING WITH
THE NORTH
AND SOUTH OF
THIS TOWN.



...I MUST
WONDER
AT WHAT
HISTORY
LED YOU
TO DO
BUSINESS
WITH HER.



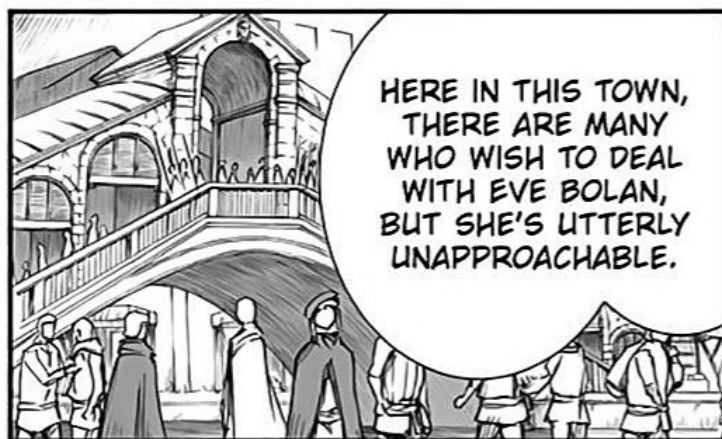
STILL
.....



I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE HOPING
TO USE MISS
EVE'S CONTACTS
TO DISCOVER
PROFITABLE
INFORMATION?



I DID NOTHING.
SHE APPROACHED
ME.



HERE IN THIS TOWN,
THERE ARE MANY
WHO WISH TO DEAL
WITH EVE BOLAN,
BUT SHE'S UTTERLY
UNAPPROACHABLE.



I'M SURE
ANYONE WHO
CAN GET A
FAVORABLE
RESPONSE
FROM HER
WILL DO
WELL...




IT WAS
NONE OTHER
THAN EVE WHO
WAS CLASHING
WITH THE
SOUTH SIDE'S
COIN PURSE
MERCENARIES
AT THE
"SPRING OF
GOLD,"
RIGHT?



SHE
INGRATIATED
HERSELF WITH
THE HEADMEN,
USED THEM,
PROFITED...

...AND
THEN WAS
UNABLE TO
PAY THEM
BACK.

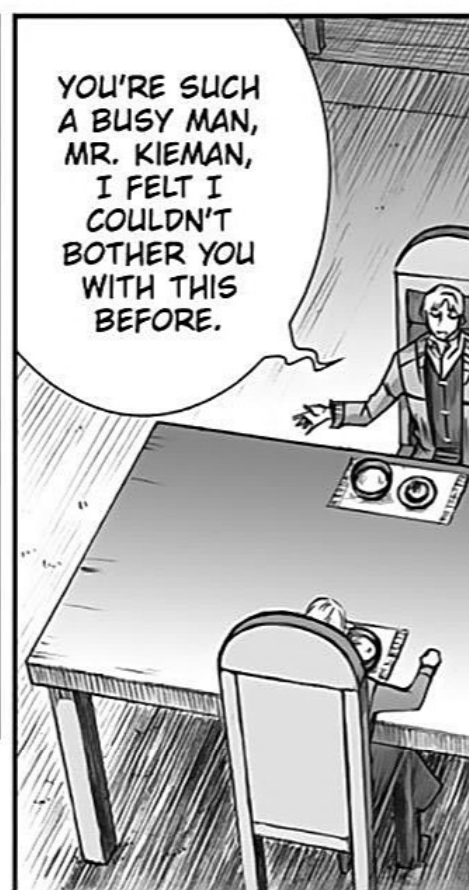
OR
PERHAPS
SHE SIMPLY
DIDN'T
WANT
TO.



—AND ONLY
NOW AM I
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY.



HOHH?





I SEE...
AS A
MERCHANT,
EH?



I TAKE
THIS
PROMISE
VERY
SERIOUSLY.



AS A
MERCHANT,
I PROMISED
TO SEE MY
COMPANION,
WHO HAS
FORGOTTEN
THE WAY...

...BACK
TO HER
HOME IN THE
FOREST OF
YOITSU.

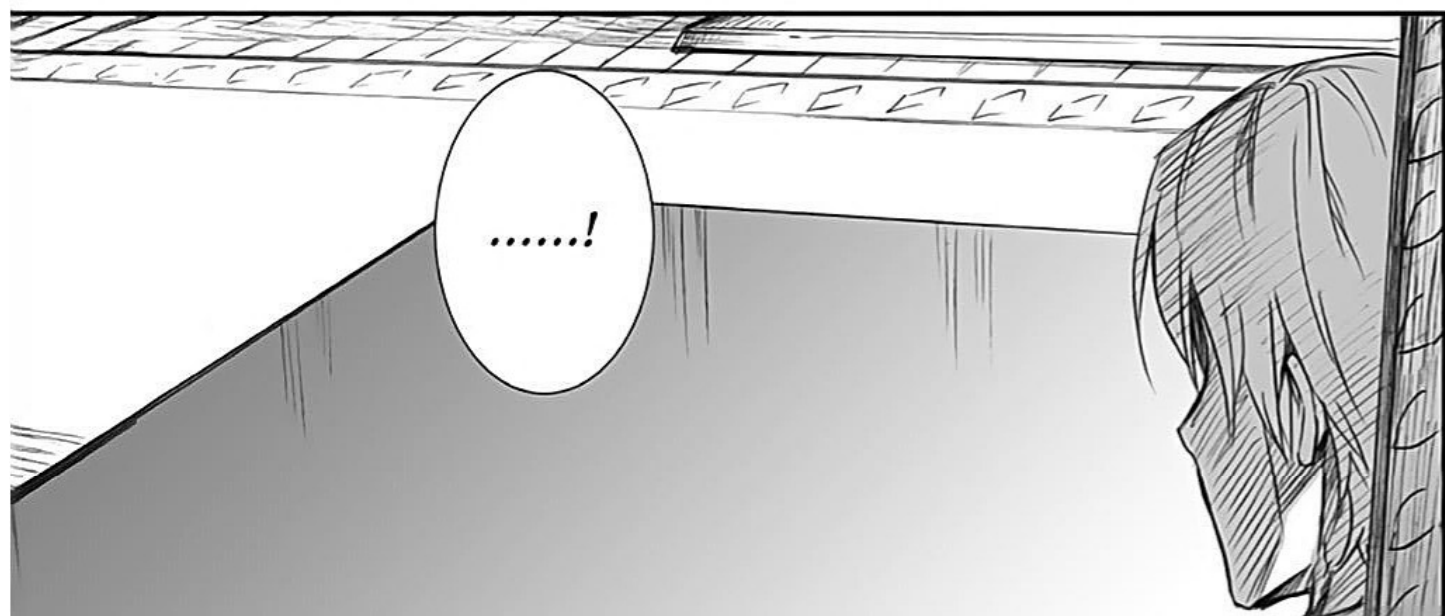


INCIDENTALLY,
MR. LAWRENCE—



SO
ON THAT
COUNT,
YOU'VE
FOUND
THE RIGHT
PERSON
TO ASK.

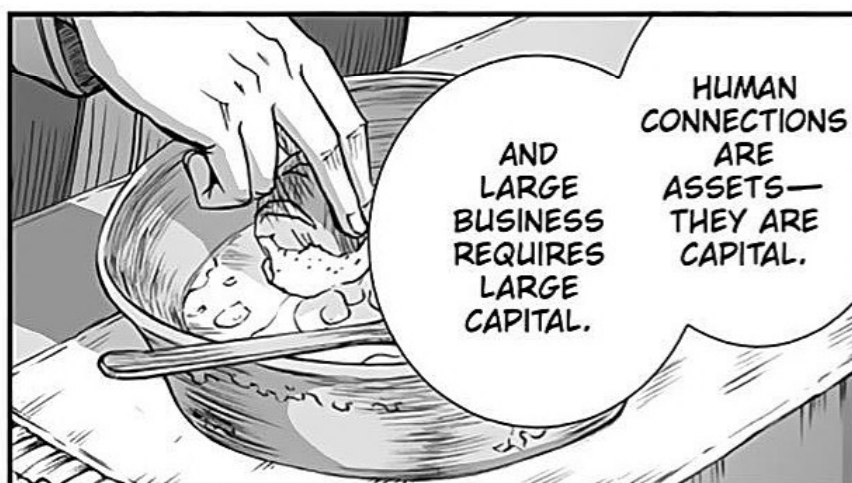
I DOUBT
THERE'S
ANYONE WHO
KNOWS MORE
ABOUT THE
ROAM RIVER
REGION THAN
EVE BOLAN.







I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET
MY GUARD
DOWN...



AND
LARGE
BUSINESS
REQUIRES
LARGE
CAPITAL.

HUMAN
CONNECTIONS
ARE
ASSETS—
THEY ARE
CAPITAL.



IN THAT CASE,
I'M EXPECTING
YOU TO BEHAVE
IN A MANNER
BEFITTING A
MEMBER OF
THIS GUILD.

—I'VE
COMPLETELY
MISJUDGED
EVE'S
IMPORTANCE
AS WELL.



.....
.....

EVE WAS
ONLY JUST
IN A DIFFICULT
PLACE WITHOUT
ANYWHERE
TO TURN,
YOU SEE.





...AND
THEY MAY
NOT HAVE
LIVED FOR
CENTURIES...

THOUGH
THEY MAY
LACK WOLF
EARS OR
TAILS...



I
FELT THE
TRUTH OF
THAT.

...YOU'LL
SURELY
REGRET
IT.



AH,
YES.
ONE
MORE
THING.



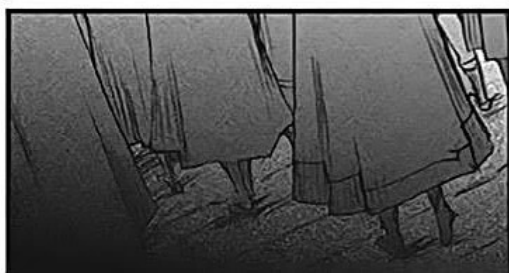
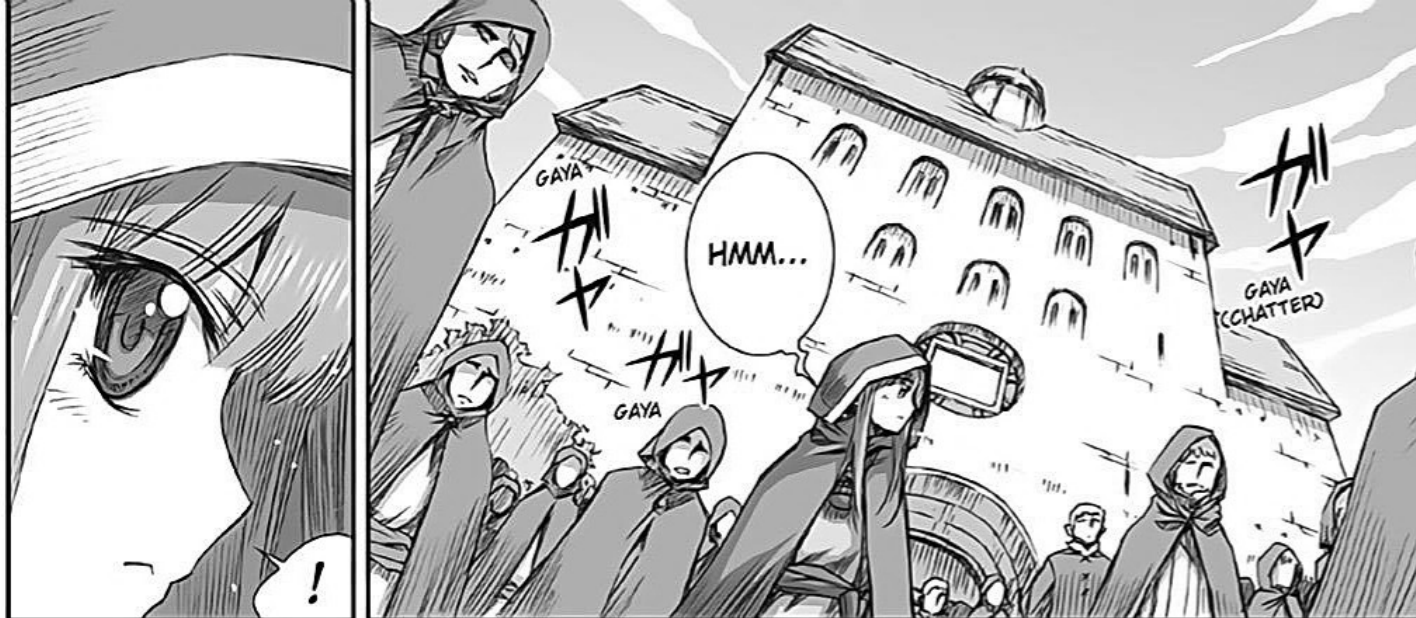
IF YOU
SPEAK OF
THIS TO
ANYONE
ELSE...

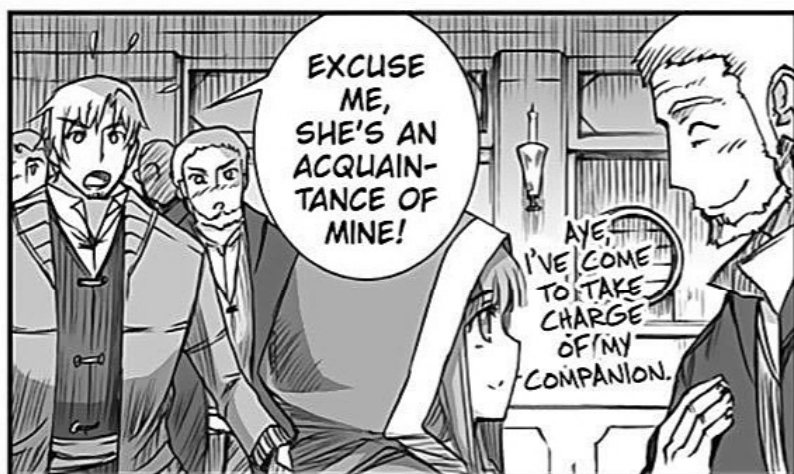
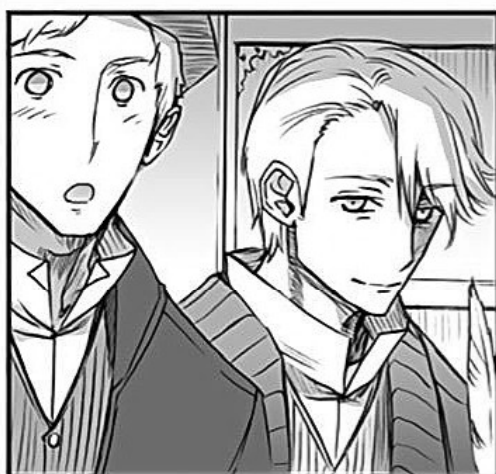
...THERE
ARE
PEOPLE IN
THE WORLD
EVERY BIT
HOLO'S
EQUAL.

SPICE & WOLF











ANYWAY,
WE'RE
HEADING
BACK TO
THE INN.



SOUTHBOUND
BOATS WERE
PACKED FULL
OF PEOPLE
MADLY TRYING
TO GET
THERE.

AYE, 'T WAS
AN AMAZING
COMMOTION.

モッチ

モッチ
(MUNCH)



AAAAH!



BUT I
ASSUMED
IT WAS
JUST
TALK OF
INTERNAL
POLITICS.

ACCORDING
TO TALK IN THE
TRADE HOUSE, A
SHIP FROM THE
NORTH SIDE WAS
BEING TOWED
BY A SHIP FROM
A COMPANY ON
THE SOUTH
SIDE.

?



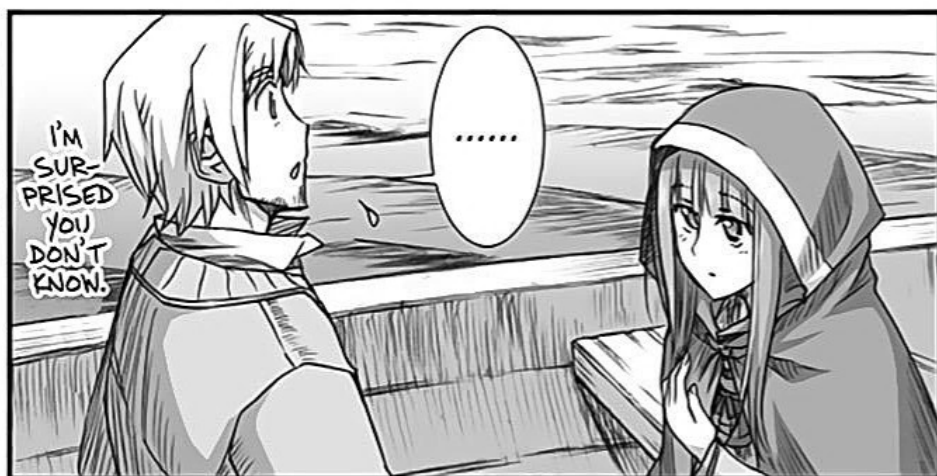
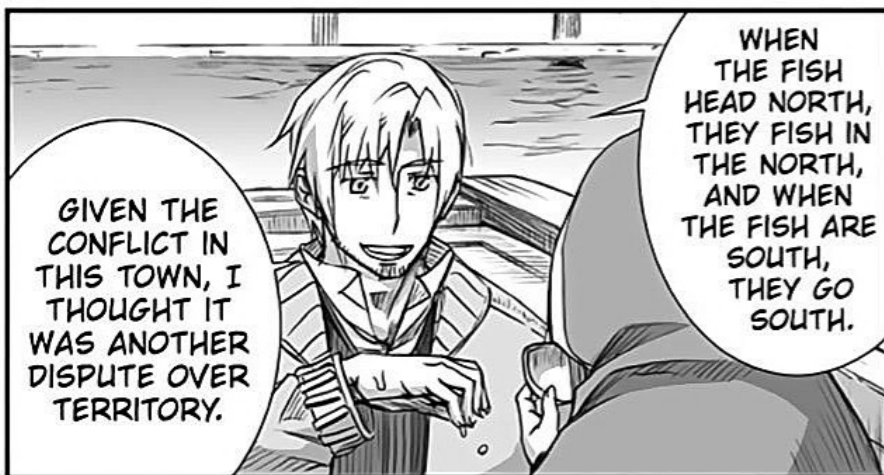
HOW
SHOULD I
KNOW? I TRIED
TO LISTEN TO
THE PEOPLE
AROUND ME,
BUT TO NO
AVAIL.

I THOUGHT
'T WOULD BE
BETTER TO
FIND YOU
AGAIN.

PERO
(CLICK)

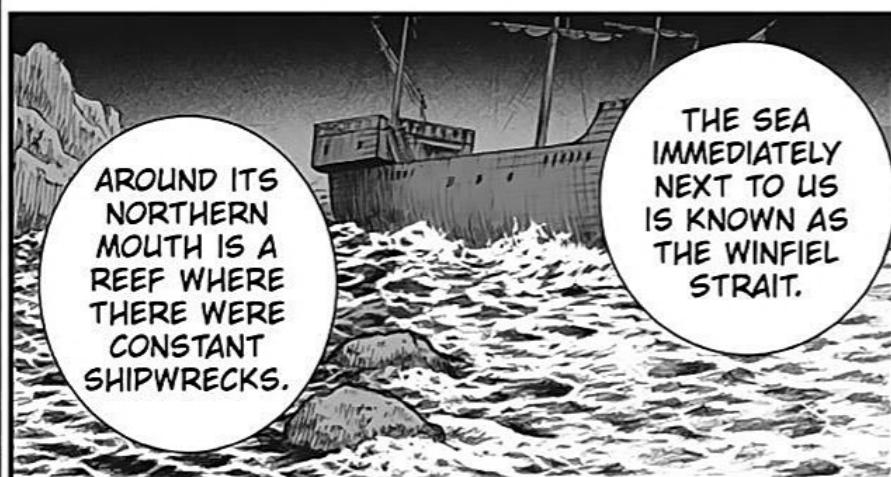


I KNOW
MOST OF THE
STORY, BUT
WHAT COULD
MAKE THE
CHURCH SEND
PEOPLE AWAY
LIKE THAT?





AND
THERE'S
AN OLD
LEGEND
ABOUT
THEM...



AROUND ITS
NORTHERN
MOUTH IS A
REEF WHERE
THERE WERE
CONSTANT
SHIPWRECKS.

THE SEA
IMMEDIATELY
NEXT TO US
IS KNOWN AS
THE WINFIEL
STRAIT.



MERMAIDS
ARE HUMAN
FROM THE
WAIST UP,
BUT BELOW
THAT, THEY
HAVE THE
TAILS OF
FISH.



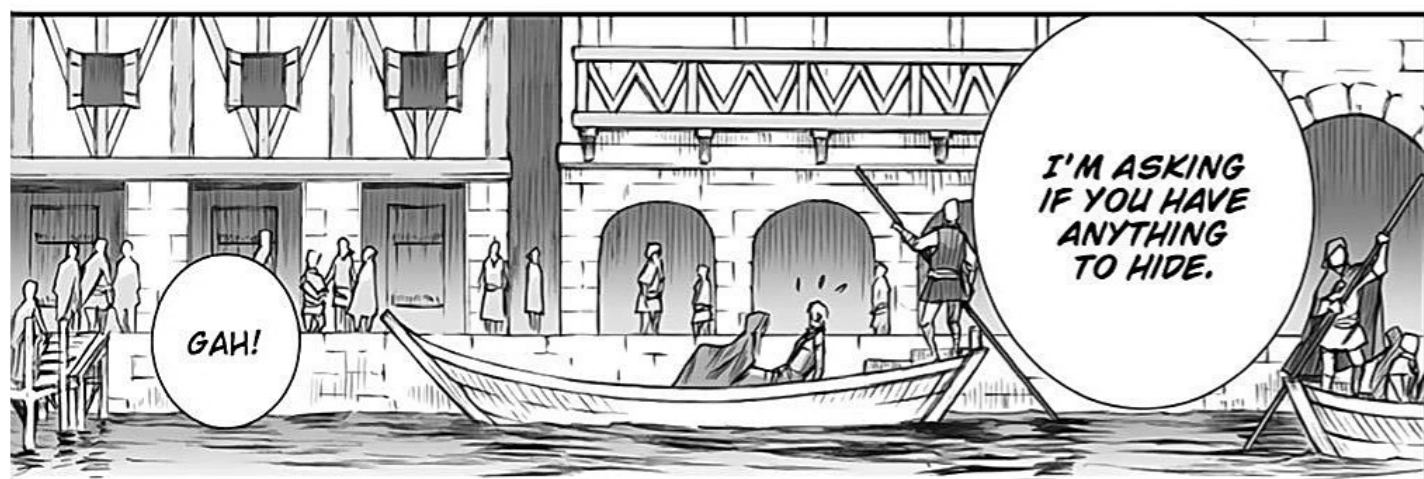
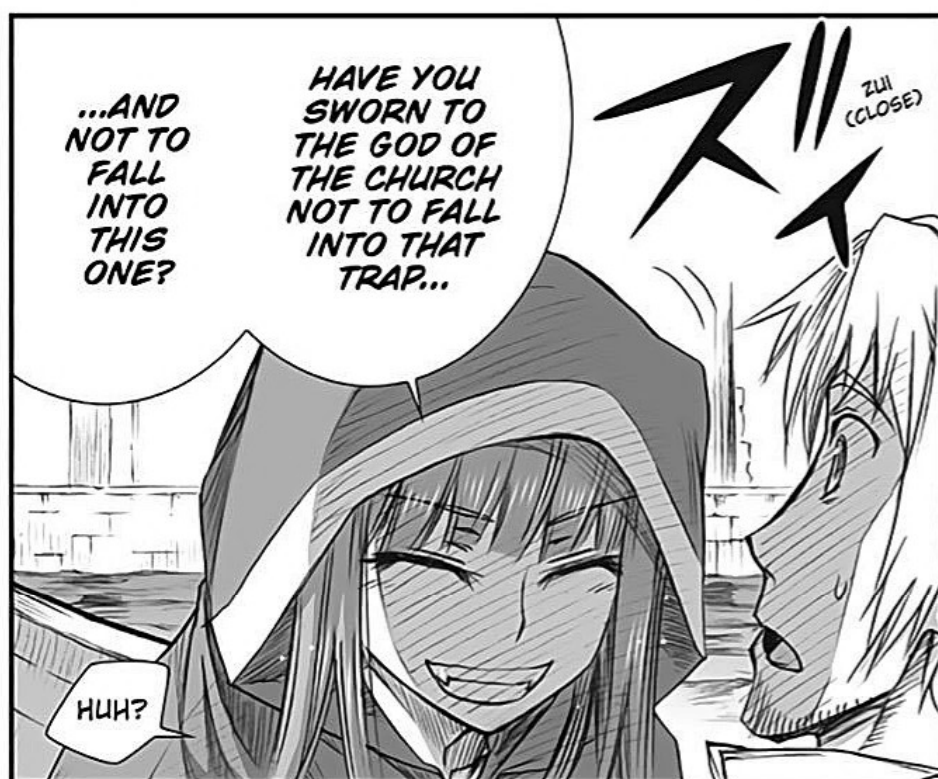
...THAT
WOMEN WITH
VOICES OF
UNEARTHLY
BEAUTY SING
ENCHANTED SONGS
FROM THAT REEF,
CAUSING SAILORS
TO LOSE THEIR
WAY AND WRECK
THEIR SHIPS
...

BUT
WHAT SORT
OF WOMEN SIT
ON WAVE-
POUNDED
ROCKS LIKE
THAT, YOU
ASK?



HUMAN
MALES
SURELY
ARE EASY
TO FOOL.

HMPH.





IF IT WAS SUCH AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND, WHY DIDN'T YOU SIMPLY REFUSE?

COMPARED WITH A MERCHANTS' TRADE GUILD, I'M NOTHING.

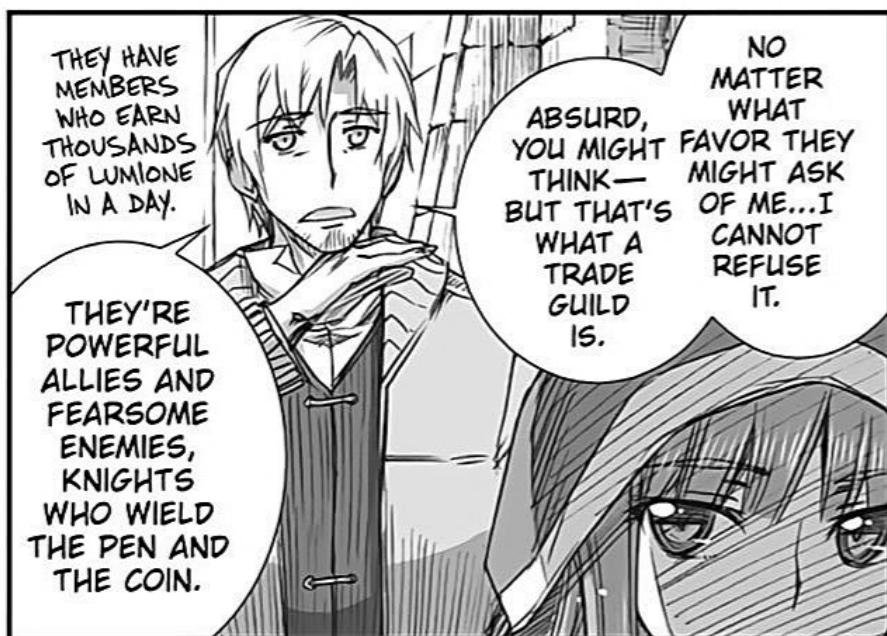


UURGH...



HMM.

WELL, I SUPPOSE 'TIS TRUE THAT A YOUNGSTER CAN HARDLY DISOBEY A VETERAN...



THEY HAVE MEMBERS WHO EARN THOUSANDS OF LUMIONE IN A DAY.

THEY'RE POWERFUL ALLIES AND FEARSOME ENEMIES, KNIGHTS WHO WIELD THE PEN AND THE COIN.

NO MATTER WHAT FAVOR THEY MIGHT ASK OF ME...I CANNOT REFUSE IT.

ABSURD, YOU MIGHT THINK — BUT THAT'S WHAT A TRADE GUILD IS.



AYE.

I CANNOT
HAVE YOU
LOSING
YOUR
WAY.

EVEN IF
I WERE AT
THE TOP OF
THAT LIST, I
ASSUME YOU
WOULDN'T
ADMIT IT,
WOULD
YOU?



YOU
SEE?

AYE.



...WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE,
ALL I NEED
DO IS ACT
ACCORDING
TO MY OWN
PRIORITIES.

ANY-
WAY
...

!



MR.
REYNOLDS,
EH~?



THIS PAST
AUTUMN,
HE SAID HE
COULDN'T EVEN
AFFORD TO
EAT WELL AND
HAD FALLEN
TO SAVING
HIS TABLE
SCRAPS.

HE'S
AWFUL STINGY
THESE DAYS,
NOT THAT HE
WAS EVER
MUCH FOR
GENEROSITY.

EVEN
THOUGH
HANDLIN' ALL
THAT COPPER
COIN MEANS HE
WAS RAKIN'
IT IN ALL
ALONG.



NIGH
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

HNNN!
NAH,
CAN'T
BE!

HEE
HEE...



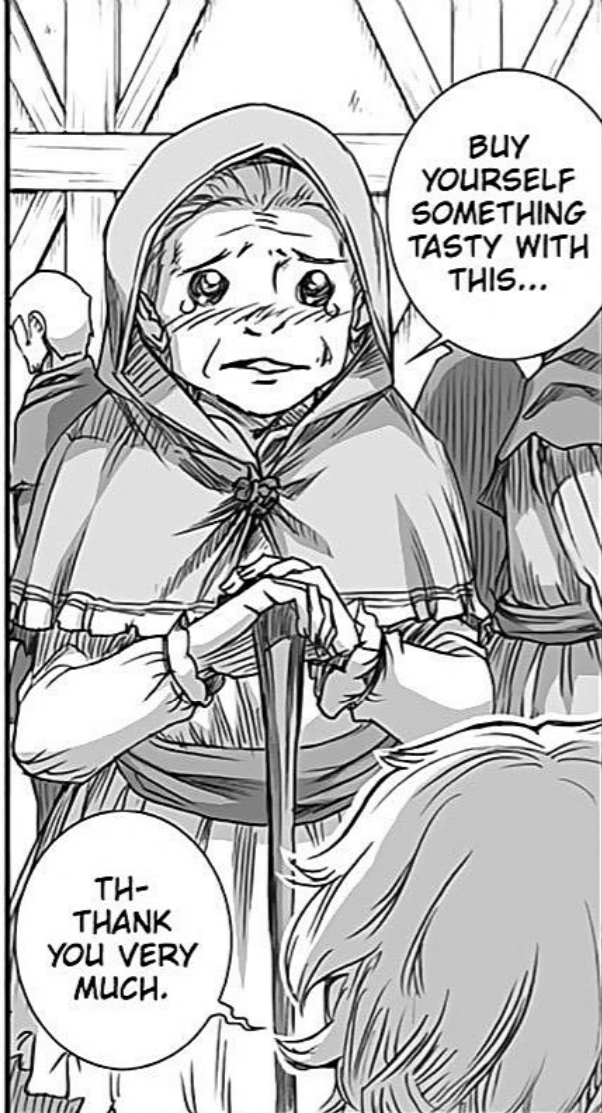
I
SEE...

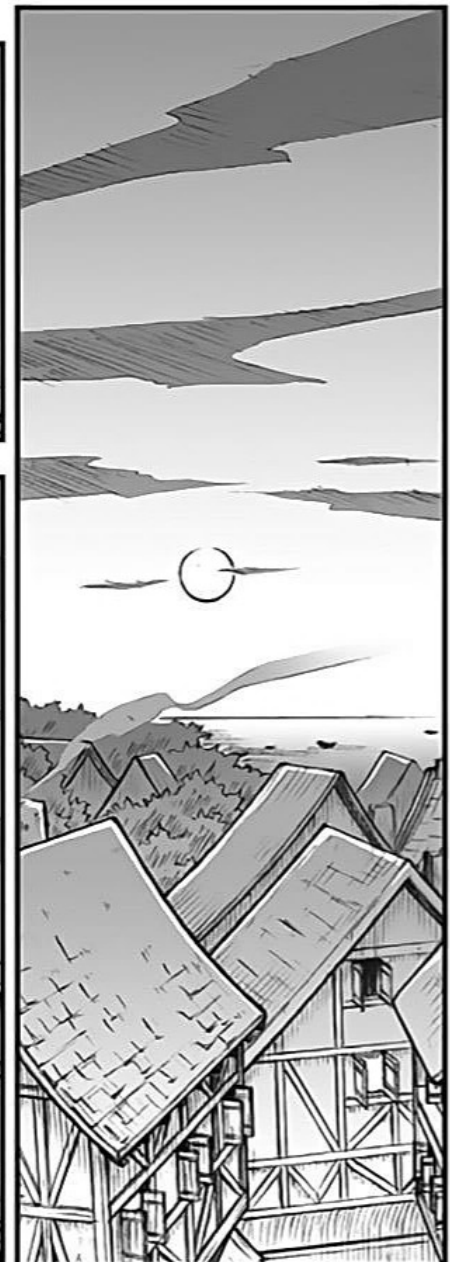
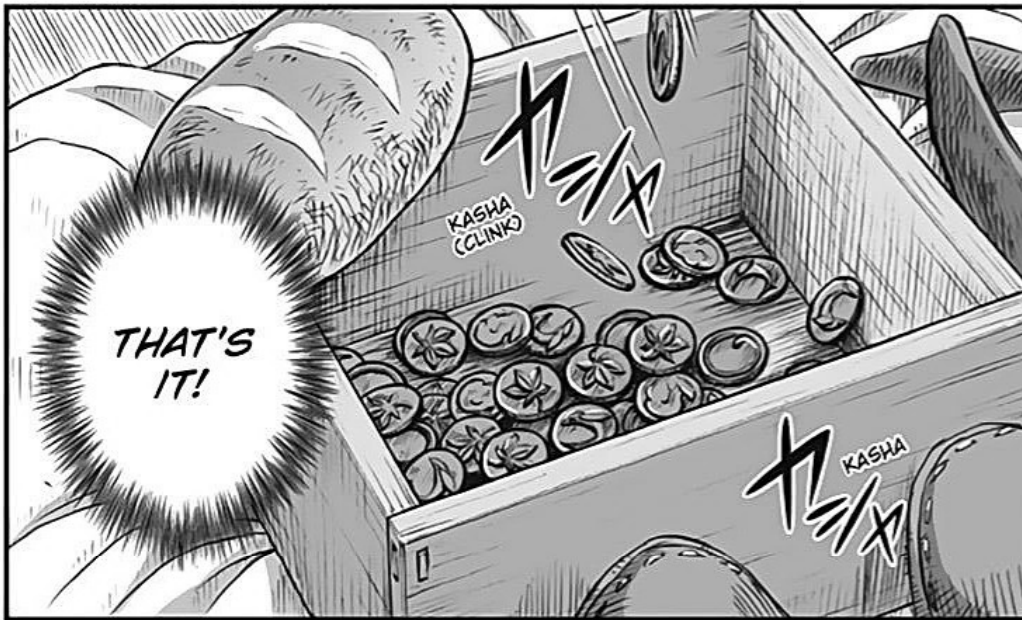
I'D HEARD
THAT HE
HAD A
FORTUNE
SAVED
AWAY...

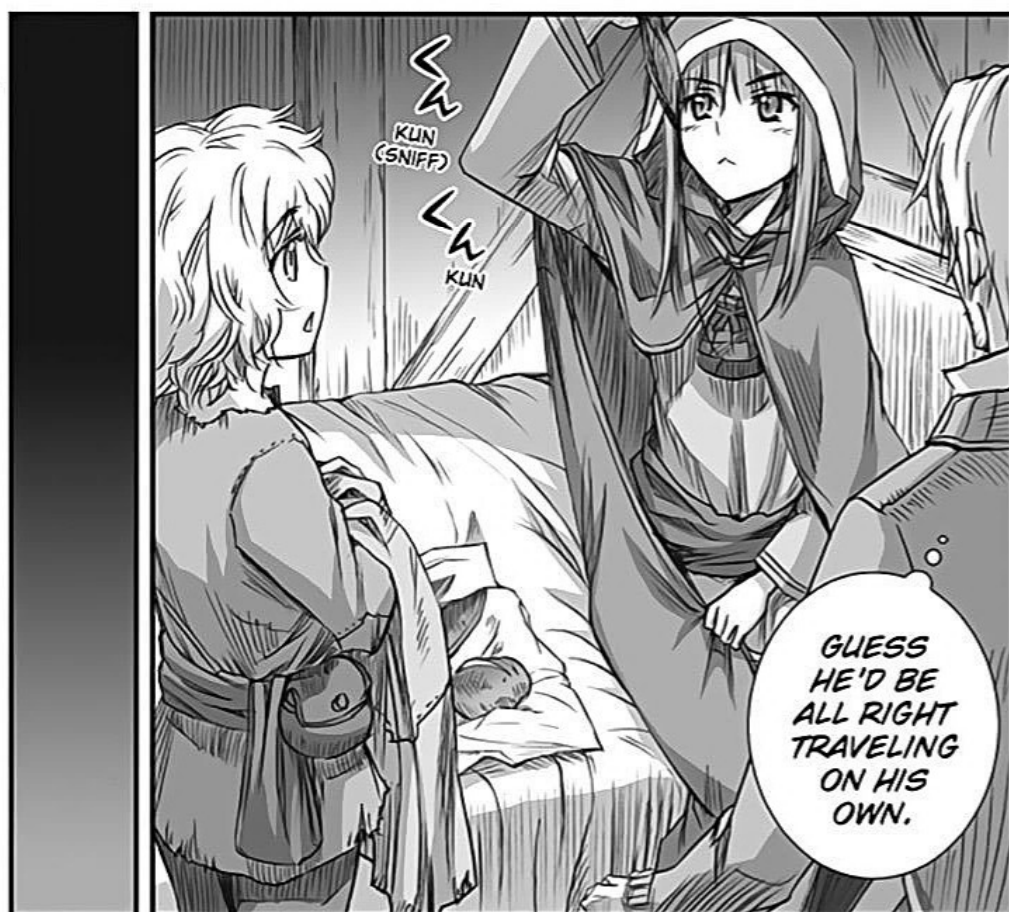


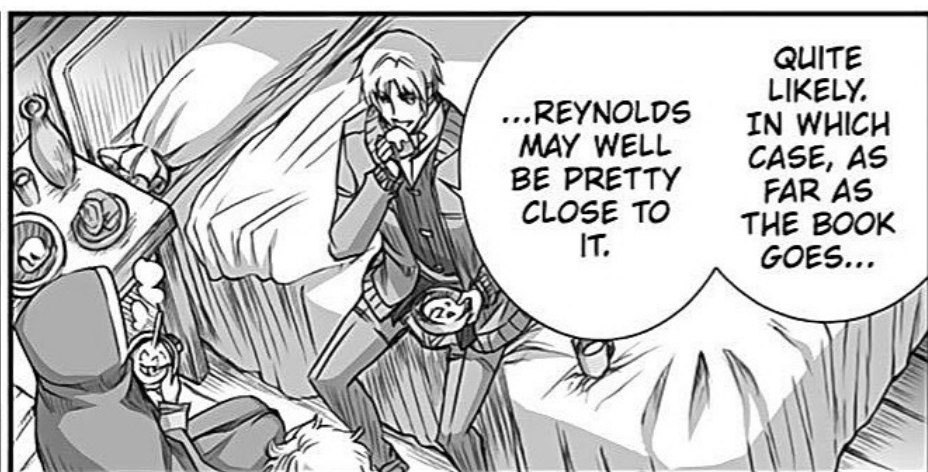
THE CAN-
CELLATION
OF THE
NORTHERN
CAMPAIGNS
HAS COME
AROUND
TO AFFECT
EVEN US!

IT'S
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
BOTHER!













**SUCH
CHILDISH
GAMBITS—**



**IF
POSSIBLE,
OUR SOLUTION
SHOULD BE
MONEY...
IN THE WORST
CASE, A
SECRET THEFT
WOULD ALSO
WORK.**

**NO,
NO.**

EH?



**ENOUGH
MONEY
CAN
EASILY
KILL A
PERSON.**



HMPH...

**PUU
(FWIP)**



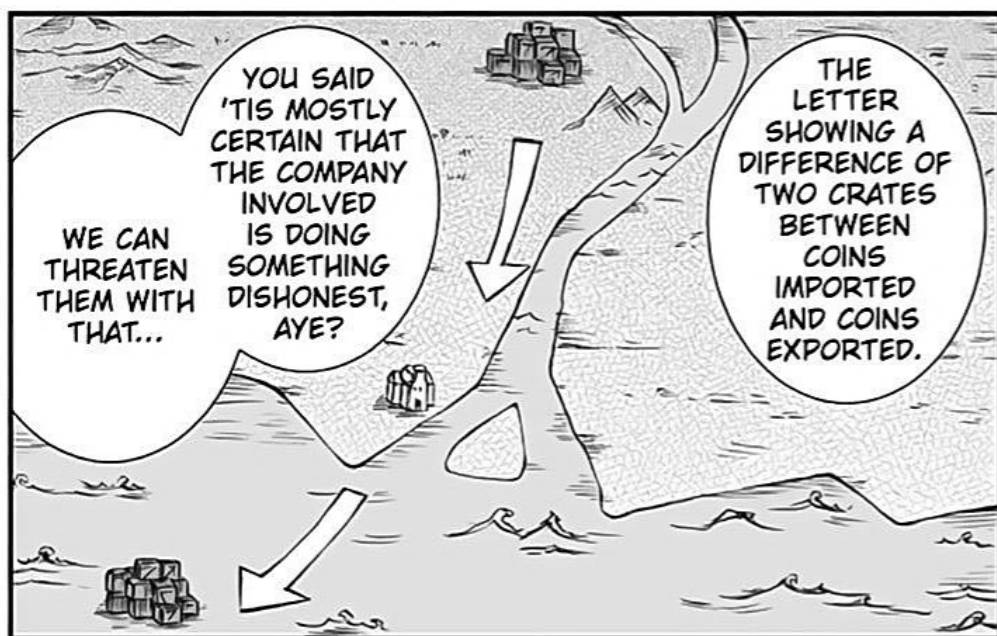
**AND IT'S
FOR MONEY
THAT YOUR
HOMELAND
WILL BE
STRIPPED
BARE.**



**...THE
QUESTION
BECOMES
"WHAT CAN
WE DO ABOUT
IT, AND THE
ANSWER MAY
WELL BE
"NOT VERY
MUCH."**

**STILL, NOW
THAT WE'VE
RECOGNIZED
THE SITUA-
TION...**

**THERE'S
NOTHING
CHILDISH
ABOUT
THAT.**





SFX: KUSHA (RUFFLE)





WE
DO WHAT
REYNOLDS
WANTS
AND PLAY
MATCHMAKER
TWIXT HIM
AND THE
VIXEN...

...AND
GET THE
LOCATION OF
THE BOOK
ONCE HE'S
ASKED HER
TO HELP
HIM.

...WAIT.
THERE'S
STILL A
CLEAR
FLAW
THERE.

OH,
AYE?



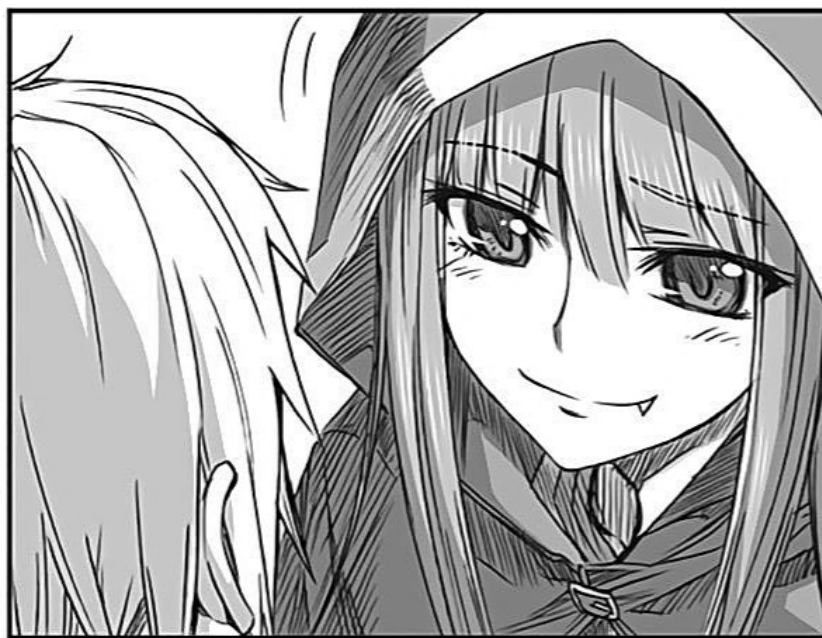


**WE
NEED BUT
SEDUCE
HER.**



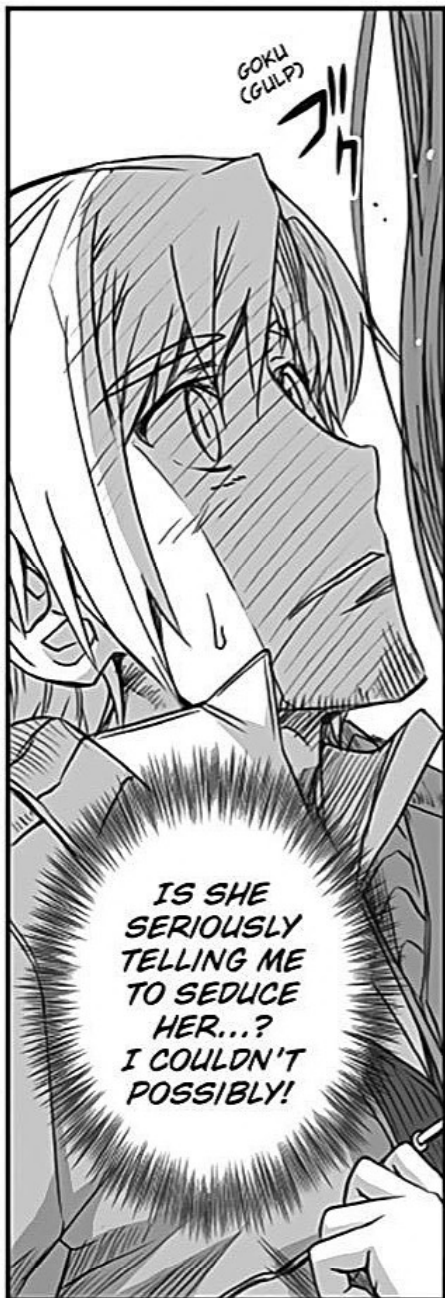
IF WE ASK
HER WHERE
THE BOOK
IS...

**YES.
WHAT
PROFIT
IS THERE
FOR EVE
IN DOING
THAT?**





COL, MY
LAD. CLOSE
YOUR EYES
AND COVER
YOUR EARS.



GOKU
(GULP)

IS SHE
SERIOUSLY
TELLING ME
TO SEDUCE
HER...?
I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY!



WH-
WHAT'RE
YOU—

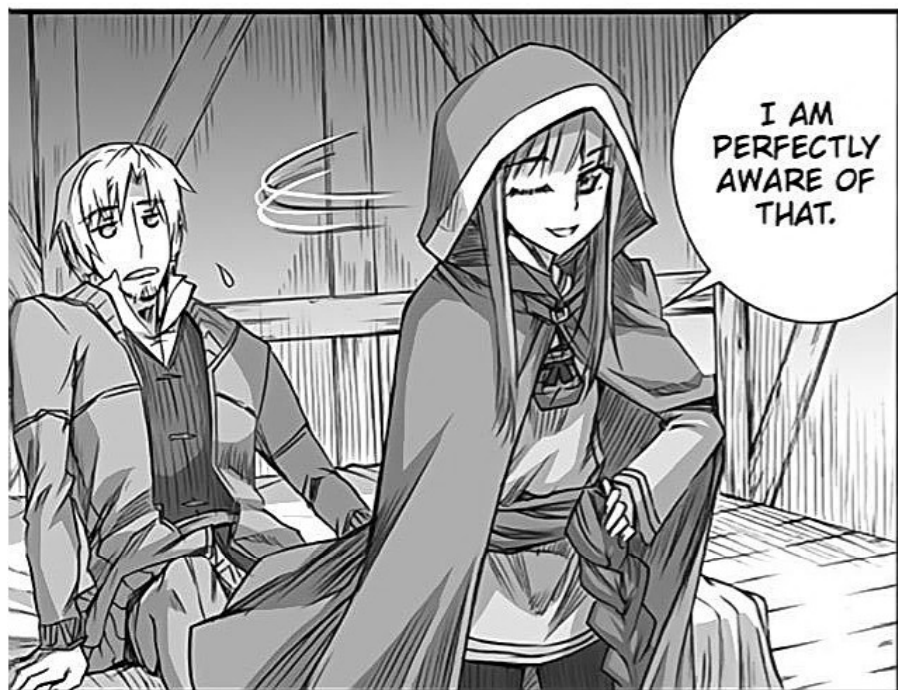
GYU
(SQUEEZE)



YOU'RE
TRYING TO
FOOL THIS
WISEWOLF,
AFTER
ALL.

SO IT
SHOULD
BE NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL,
NAY?

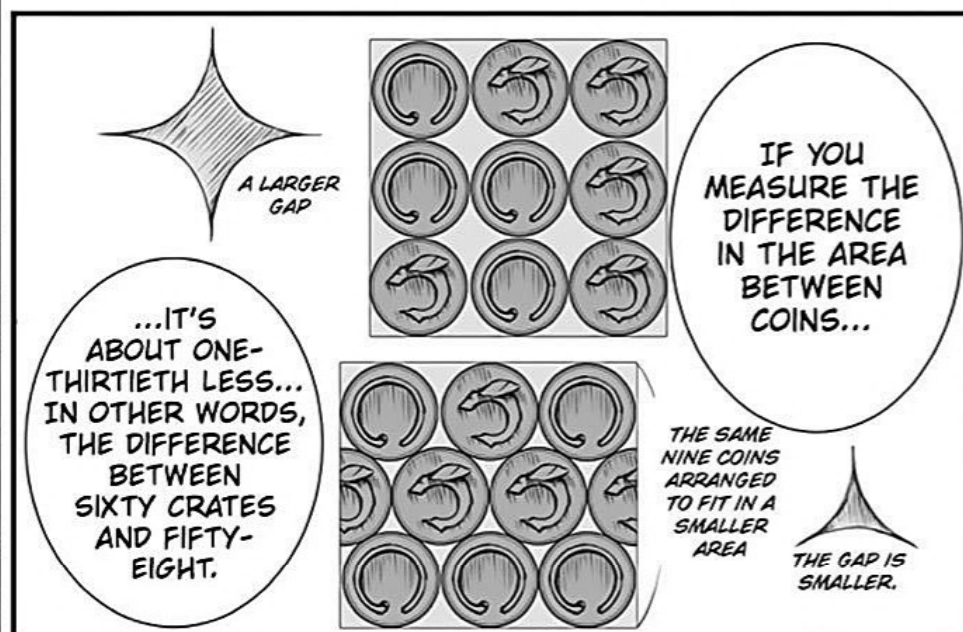








IF THEY WERE
TOLD TO PACK
THE CRATES
TIGHTLY, NO ONE
WOULD THINK TO
CHECK EXACTLY
HOW THEY WERE
PACKED DURING
EXPORT.

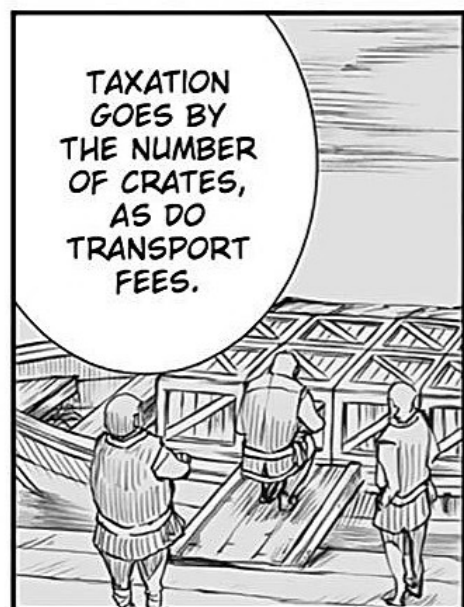


A LARGER
GAP

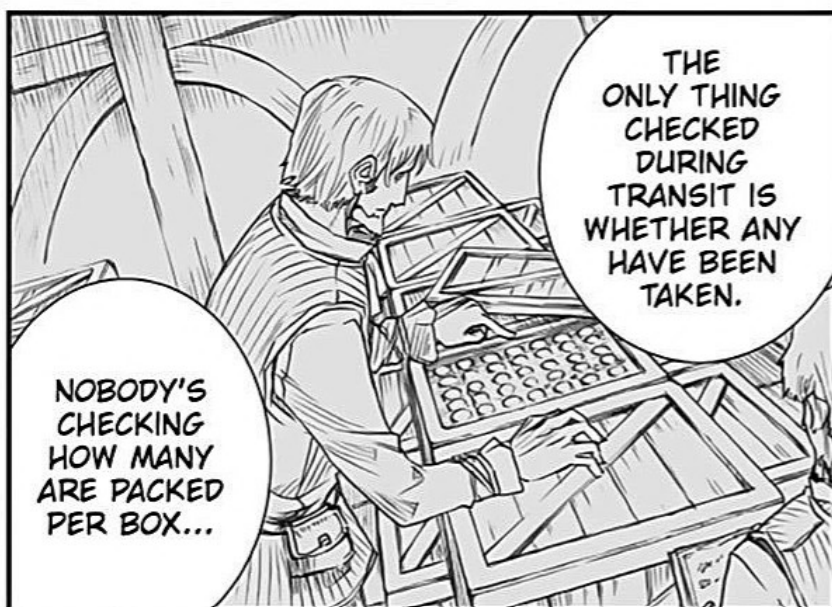
IF YOU
MEASURE THE
DIFFERENCE
IN THE AREA
BETWEEN
COINS...

THE SAME
NINE COINS
ARRANGED
TO FIT IN A
SMALLER
AREA

THE GAP IS
SMALLER.



TAXATION
GOES BY
THE NUMBER
OF CRATES,
AS DO
TRANSPORT
FEES.



THE
ONLY THING
CHECKED
DURING
TRANSIT IS
WHETHER ANY
HAVE BEEN
TAKEN.

NOBODY'S
CHECKING
HOW MANY
ARE PACKED
PER BOX...



HAS NO
ONE ELSE
NOTICED
THIS?

HMM?

I WONDER,
THOUGH...

COMMON
SENSE IS
A TRICKY
OPPONENT
...

いふ







IT'S TRUE
THAT IF THIS
COMES TO
LIGHT, THE
JEAN COMPANY
WILL EITHER
HAVE TO PAY
PENALTIES
OR LOSE
CREDIBILITY.

HE'S
REDUCING
THE NUMBER OF
BOXES SHIPPED
BY TWO AND
PROFITING VIA
THE REDUCED
TAXES AND
TRANSPORT
COSTS.



IT MIGHT'VE
BEEN JUST
THE RIGHT
WEAPON TO
USE IF THEY
WERE ONLY
CHASING
THE BOOK
FOR FUN.

THAT'S
IT,
YES.



HOW
DULL...

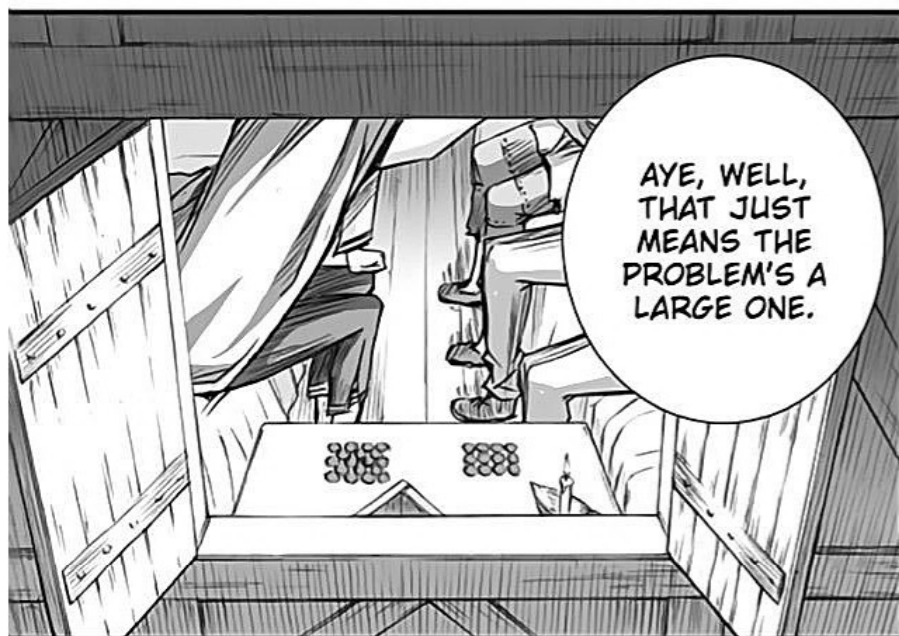
BUT THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THAT
PENALTY AND
THE PROFIT
FROM THE
BOOK IS TOO
GREAT...
AYE?



BUT...



HAAAAA
(SIGH)

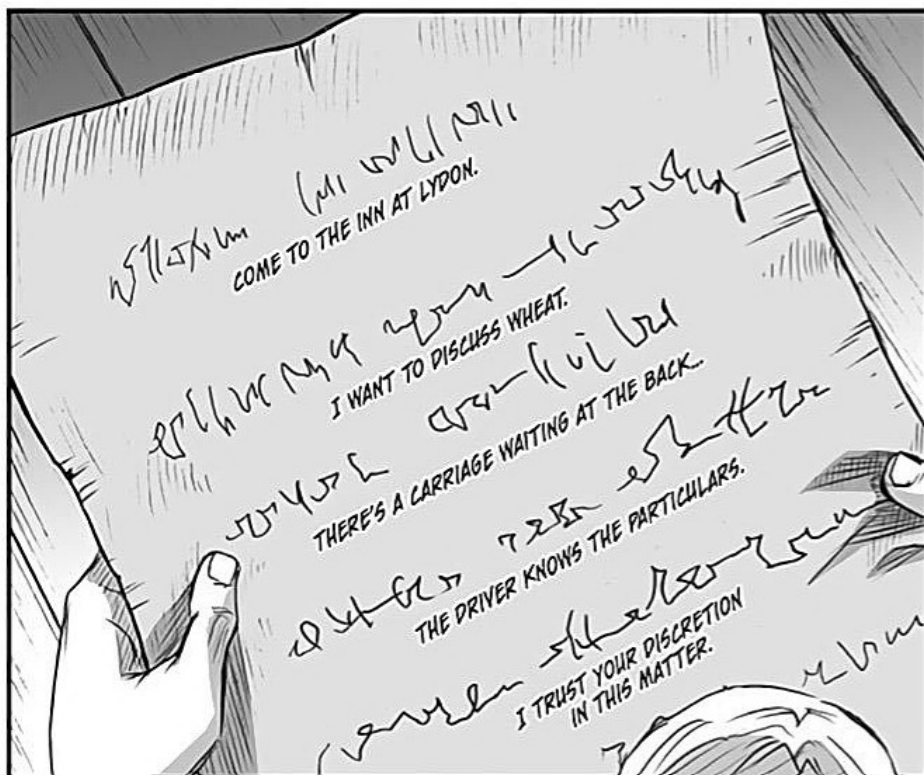








MAKING
THE FIRST
MOVE,
IS SHE?
QUITE THE
VIXEN...



COME TO THE INN AT LYDON.

I WANT TO DISCUSS WHEAT.

THERE'S A CARRIAGE WAITING AT THE BACK.

THE DRIVER KNOWS THE PARTICULARS.

I TRUST YOUR DISCRETION
IN THIS MATTER.



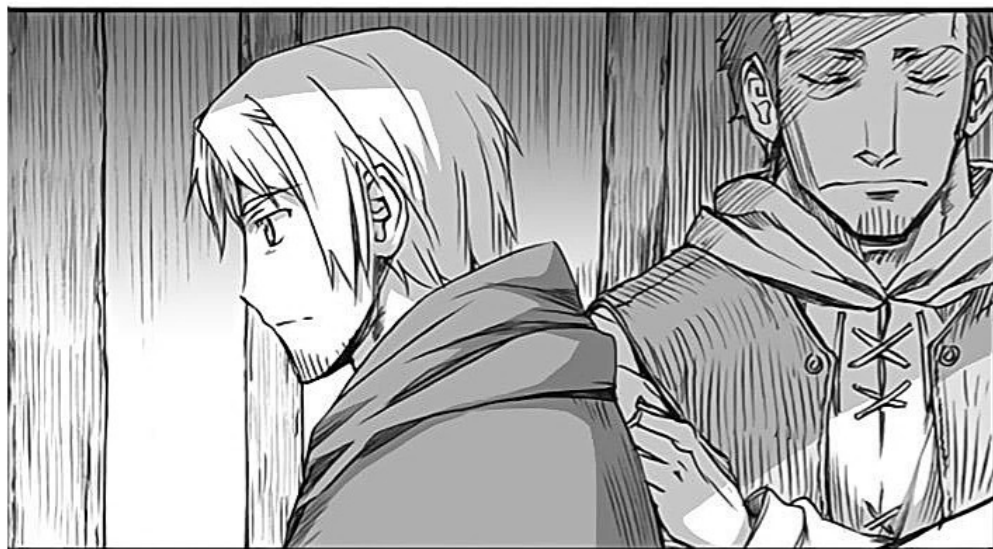
THE
SENDER'S
NAME ISN'T
WRITTEN
HERE.
...IS IT
EVE...?



SHE
WANTS
ME TO
COME
ALONE
...



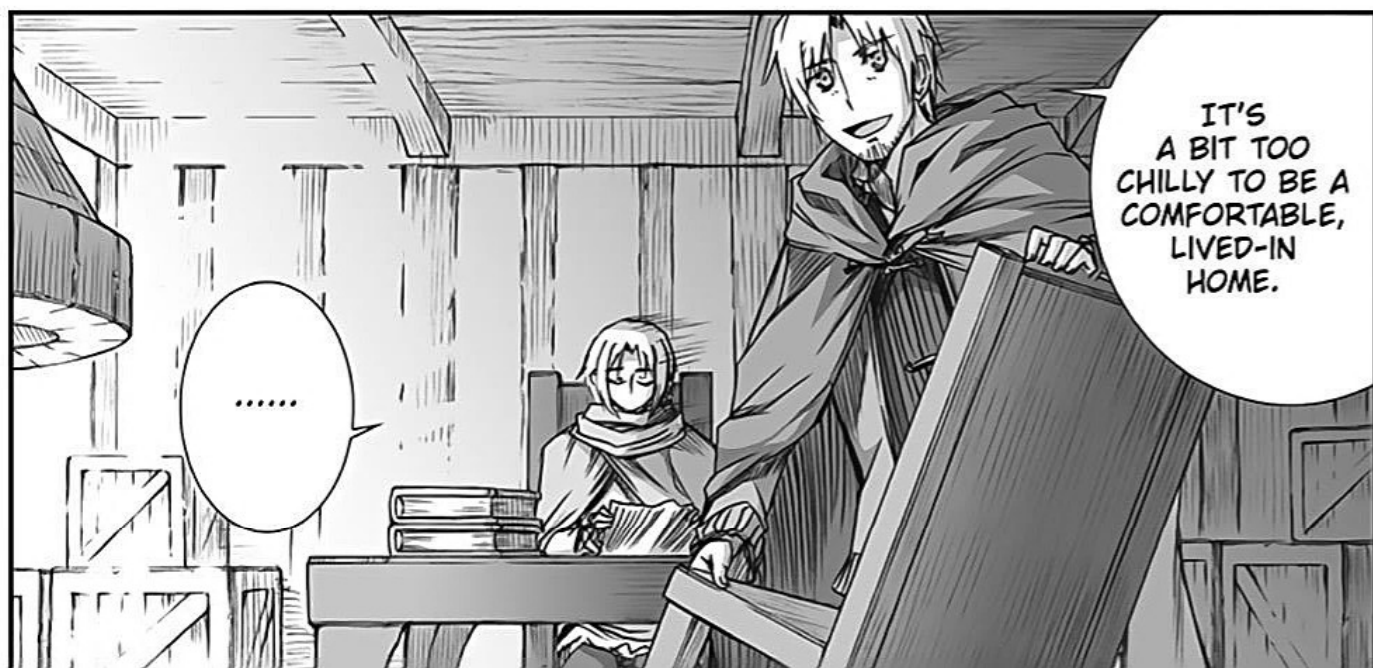


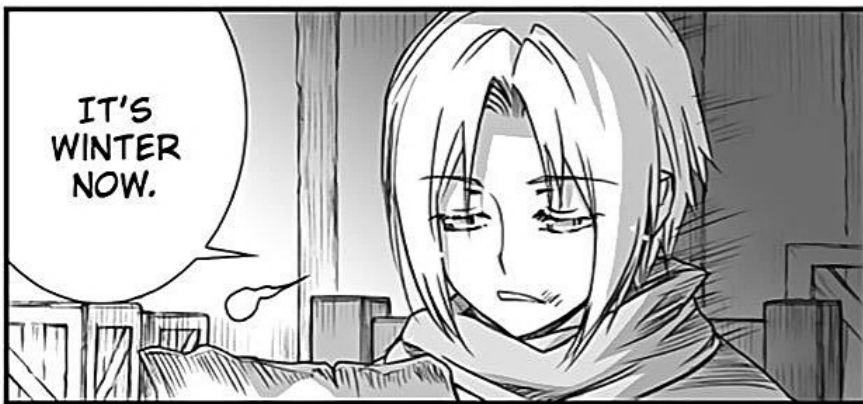


IT'S COLD
OUT THERE.
CLOSE THE
DOOR IF
YOU WOULD.
NO LOCK,
THOUGH.



SURPRISED,
ARE YOU?





IT'S
WINTER
NOW.



STILL,
I IMAGINE
IT'S NICE AND
COOL IN THE
SUMMERTIME.



SO
MUCH
THE
BETTER.

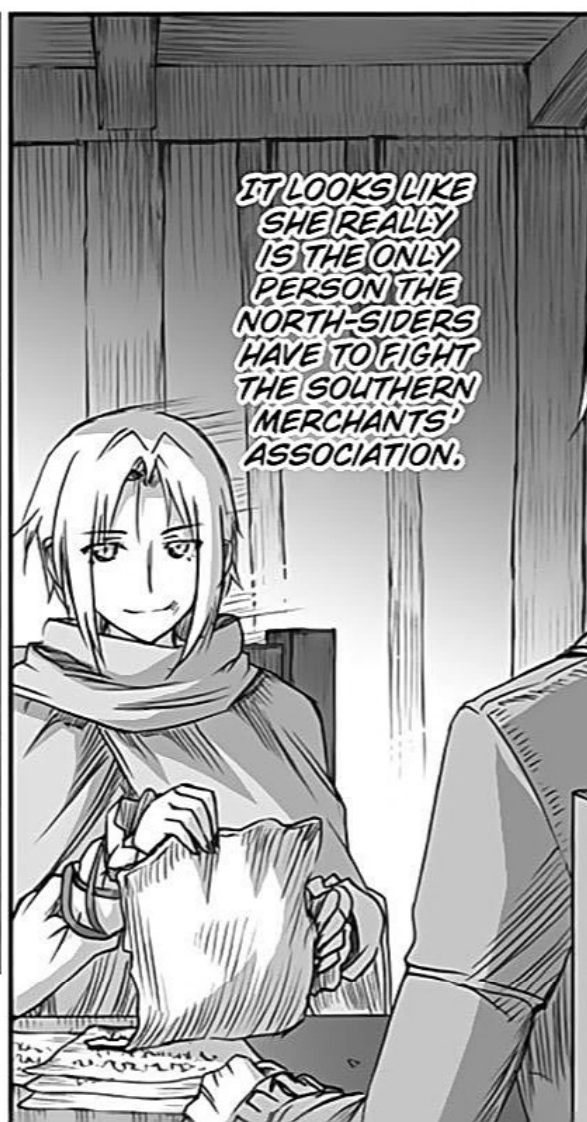
IT'LL
FEEL
WARM
WHEN
YOU GO
OUT.



KUH!
KUHI!

RIGHT
YOU ARE.

I'D LOVE TO
GET OUT. THE
SOONER, THE
BETTER.



THE
REASON
I CALLED
YOU IS, OF
COURSE—

PACHI
(CRACKLE)
1/10
✕

WELL, YOU
SAW THE
COMMOTION
IN TOWN,
DIDN'T
YOU?

PACHI
1/10
✕

IF THINGS
GO BADLY,
I'LL NEED
MY BREAD
TORN INTO
RATHER
SMALL
PIECES
TONIGHT.

STILL,
I'M GLAD
YOU LET
YOUR-
SELF BE
CAUGHT.

INDEED.
IT'S AS
THOUGH GOD
HIMSELF
TIMED IT.

YES...
SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
FISHERMAN'S
BOATS FROM
THIS SIDE OF
TOWN DOCKING
IN THE SOUTH,
WAS IT?

I JUST
HAPPENED
TO RETURN
HERE
WHEN THE
NEWS
REACHED
ME.

NORMALLY,
I'M ON
THE DELTA.



I'D BE
RECOGNIZED,
YOU SEE,
SO ONCE
THE RIOTING
STARTED, WE
COULDN'T
CROSS.

WHENEVER
THERE'S A
DISTURBANCE
IN THIS TOWN,
FERRY TRAFFIC IS
STOPPED TO AVOID
THE PROBLEM
SPREADING.



AAH...



EVEN
THOUGH OUR
SPIES MADE IT
TO THE SOUTH
SIDE, THERE
WASN'T TIME
FOR THEM TO
RETURN.



WHAT
DID YOU
HEAR, I
WONDER?

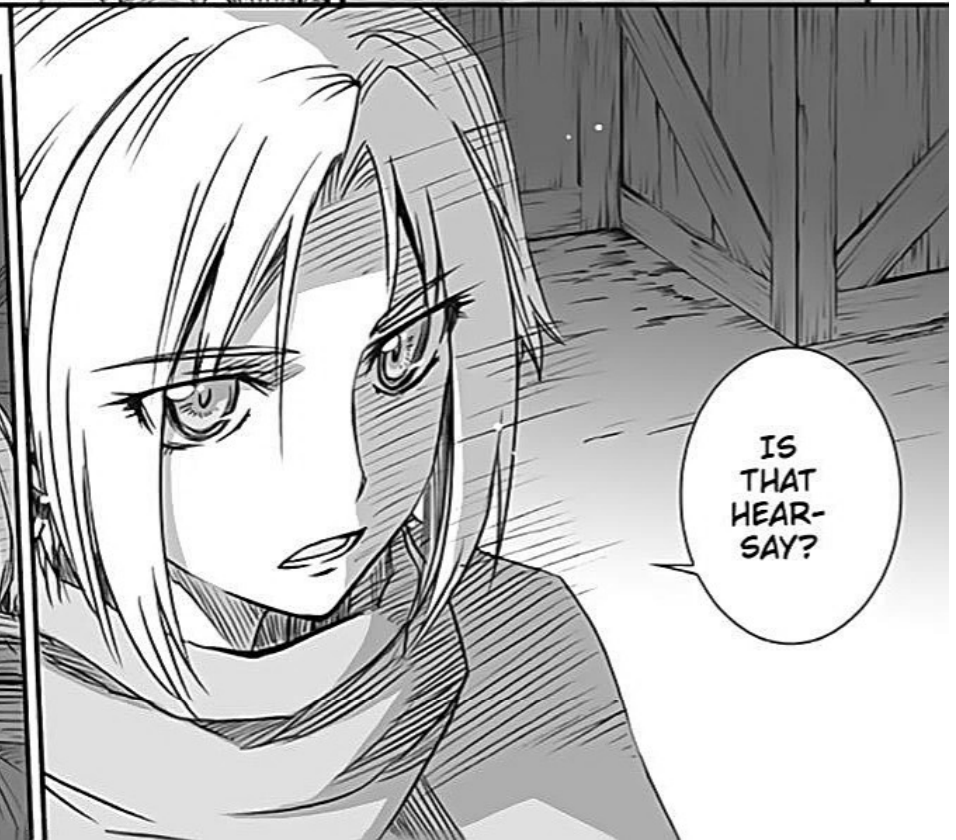
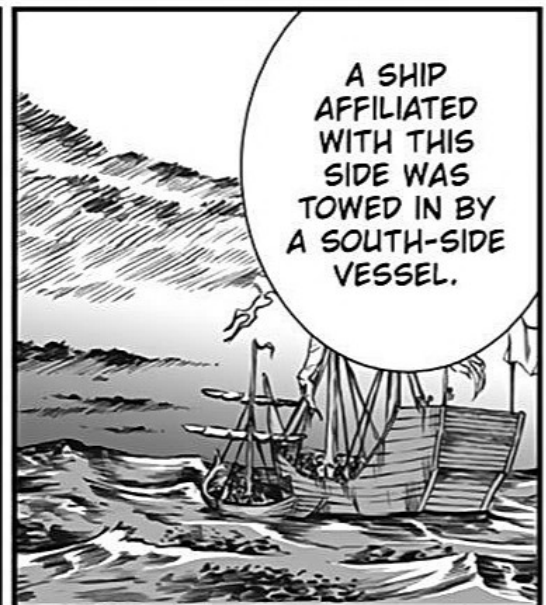


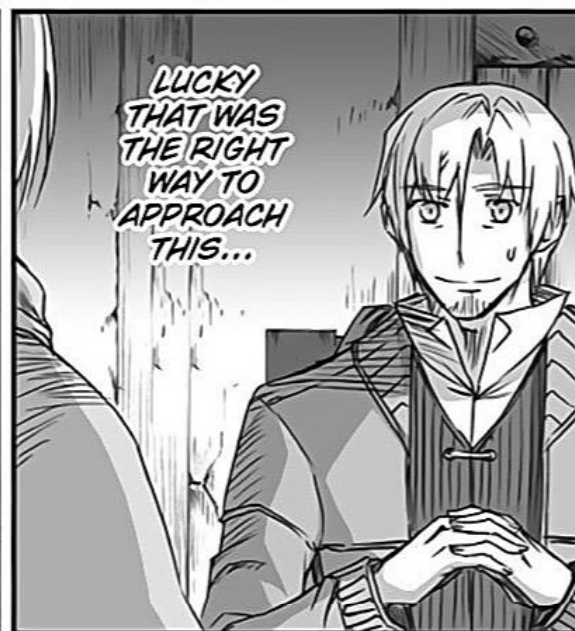
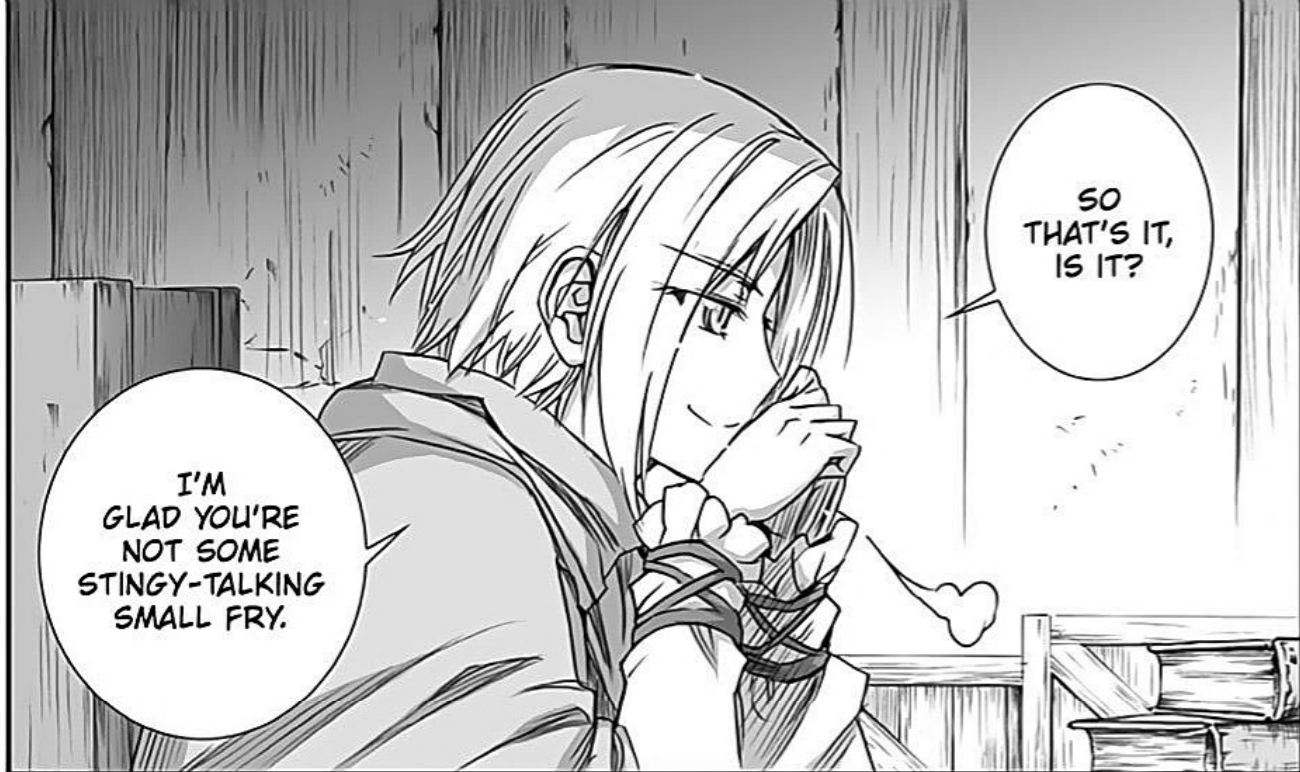
I RECKON YOU
WERE AT THAT
DELTA GUILD
HOUSE RIGHT
UP UNTIL THE
LAST MOMENT.



...AS I'M
SURE YOU'VE
GUESSED,
THERE'S
INFORMATION
I NEED.

SO
...







YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY PROPER
CONNECTIONS
HERE...

...BUT YOU'RE
ABLE TO HAVE
A PLEASANT
CONVERSATION
WITH SOMEONE
THAT MANY IN
THIS TOWN ARE
VERY EAGER
TO CONNECT
WITH.



OF
COURSE, I
WON'T SAY
IT'S FREE.



YOU'RE
IN A UNIQUE
POSITION IN
THIS TOWN.



I'VE ONLY
MEAGER COIN
AND GOODS, SADLY,
BUT I'VE MORE
THAN ENOUGH
CONNECTIONS
AND INFLUENCE.
IT'LL BE A GOOD
FOOTING FOR
BUSINESS.

PACHI
(SNAP)



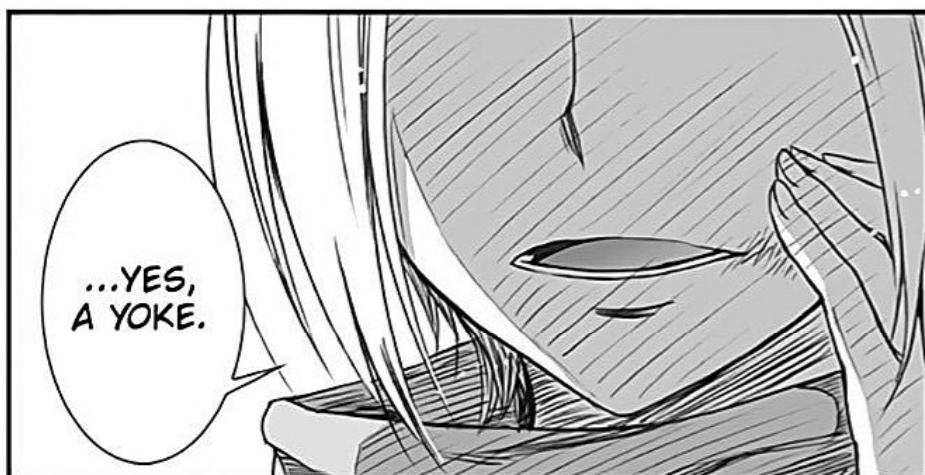
HIRA
(FLUTTER)

...AND THEIR
BELLIES ARE
TOO LARGE FOR
THEM TO FIT
THROUGH
ITS PATHS.

THE STORY
OF THIS
CONTRACT
WAS TOLD TO
ME BY THE
LOT THAT
LOCKED
ME UP IN
HERE...



AND NOT A
YOKE?*



...YES,
A YOKE.

* A TOOL USED TO HOLD ANIMALS LIKE HORSES OR OXEN IN PLACE WHEN PULLING CARTS. IT RESTRICTS THEIR MOVEMENT.



...HOW I
GOT THIS
WOUND?

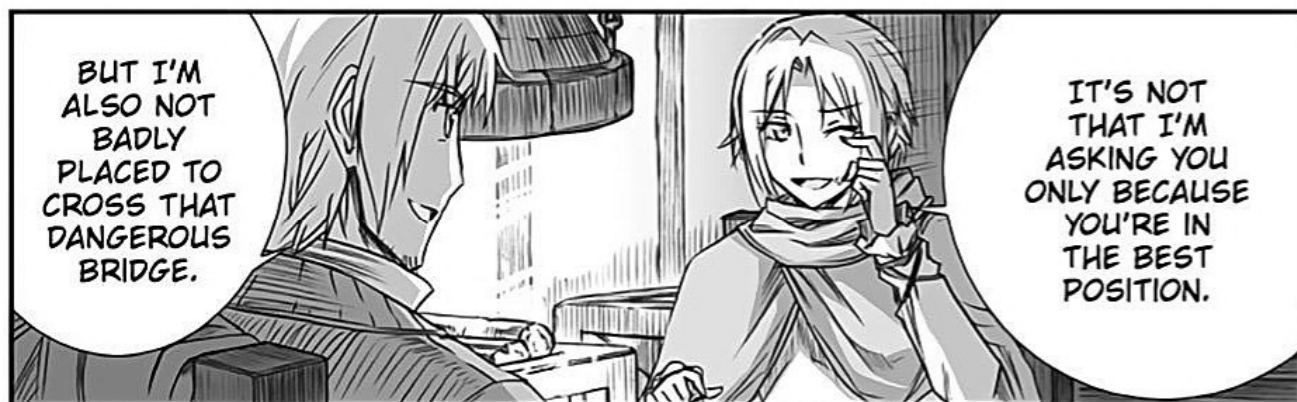
AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO ASK...



WELL
PLAYED.

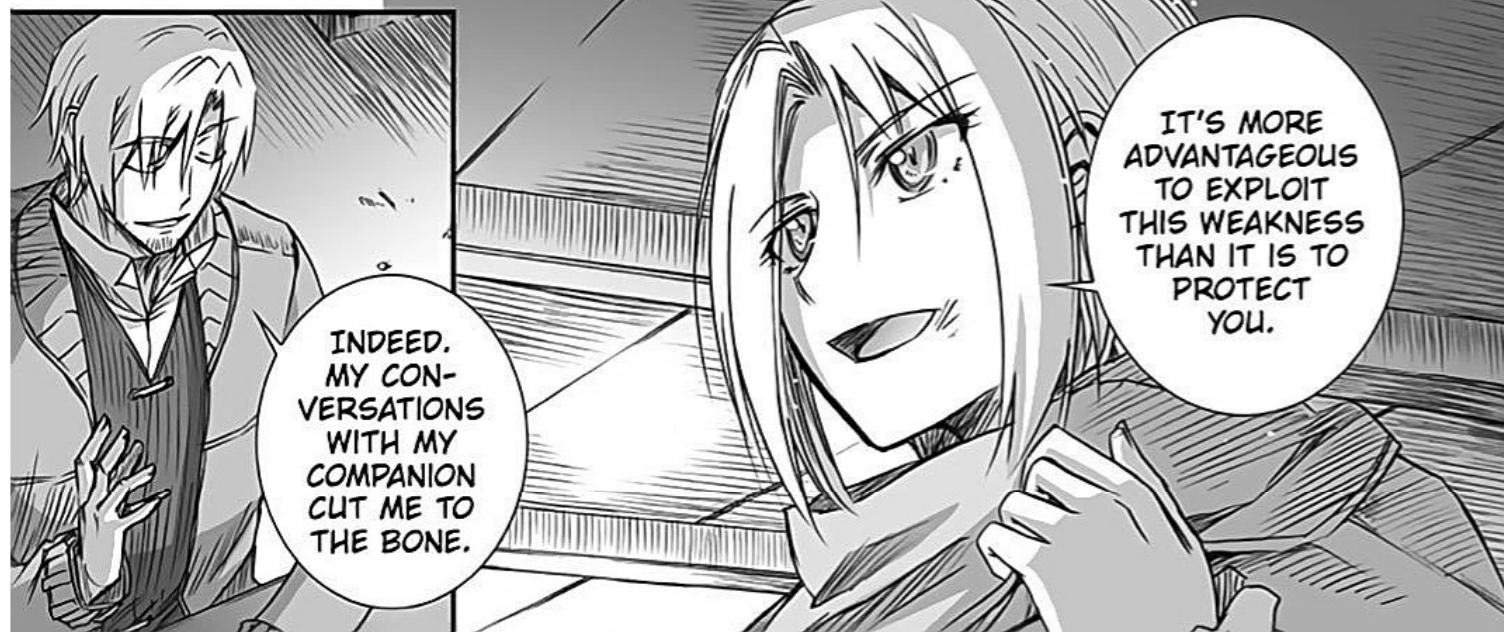


HOW'D
YOU GET
IT?



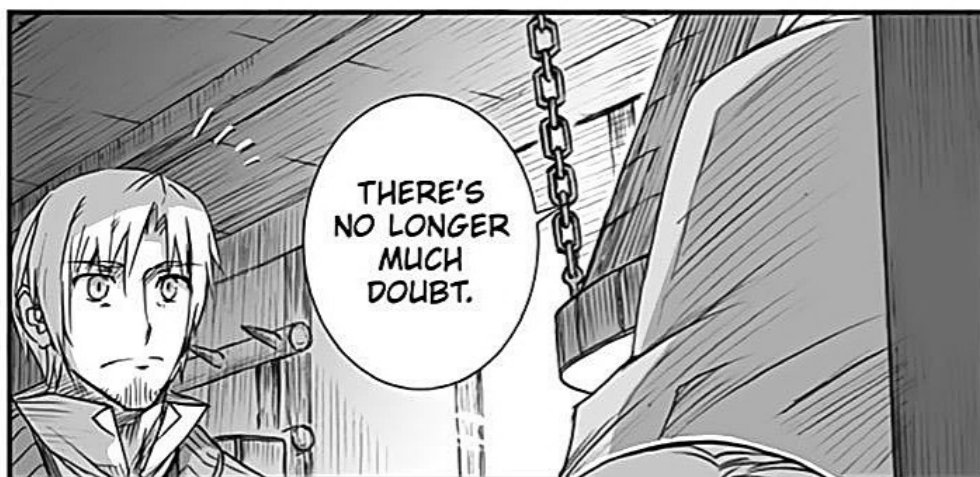
BUT I'M
ALSO NOT
BADLY
PLACED TO
CROSS THAT
DANGEROUS
BRIDGE.

IT'S NOT
THAT I'M
ASKING YOU
ONLY BECAUSE
YOU'RE IN
THE BEST
POSITION.



INDEED.
MY CON-
VERSATIONS
WITH MY
COMPANION
CUT ME TO
THE BONE.

IT'S MORE
ADVANTAGEOUS
TO EXPLOIT
THIS WEAKNESS
THAN IT IS TO
PROTECT
YOU.



...WAS A
NARWHAL.

WHAT THE
NORTH-SIDE
FISHERMEN
BROUGHT IN
FROM THE
OCEAN...






A
NARWHAL?
AS IN THE
IMMORTAL
SORT?

YES. A
HORNED SEA
MONSTER.



...EVEN
THOUGH
THEY DID
THIS TO
ME.

THE
PEOPLE
WHO
LOCKED
ME UP
HERE ARE
TERRIFIED
I'LL GET
ANGRY...

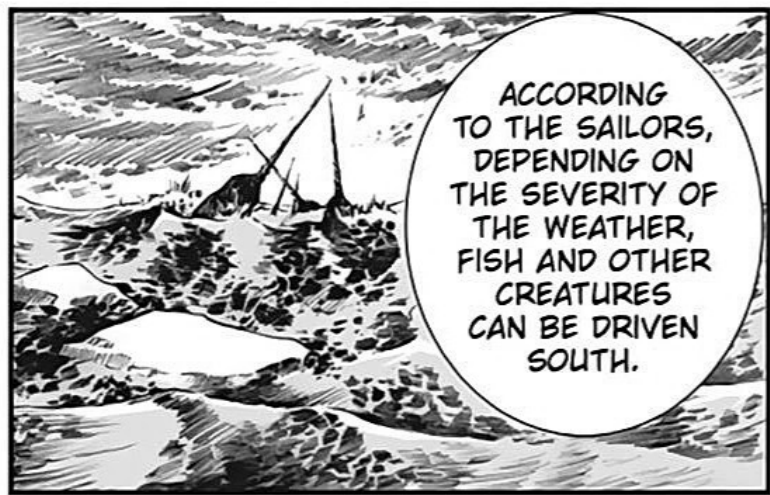


I'D HEARD
THAT WITHOUT
FREEZING WATER
THEY DIE, SO
HOW WOULD ONE
MAKE IT THIS
FAR SOUTH?

EATING ITS
FLESH BRINGS
LONGEVITY, AND
ITS POWDERED
HORN CURES
ALL DISEASES.



THOUGH
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
HEARD OF IT
HAPPENING
WITH A
NARWHAL.



ACCORDING
TO THE SAILORS,
DEPENDING ON
THE SEVERITY OF
THE WEATHER,
FISH AND OTHER
CREATURES
CAN BE DRIVEN
SOUTH.

AND
IF IT GOES
BADLY, THERE
WOULD BE
WAR.

YES.

.....BUT
SURELY
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN...

THE SOUTH
SIDE WANTS TO
MAINTAIN THEIR
CONTROL, SO
THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING TO
STAY ON EQUAL
FOOTING.

THE NORTH
SIDE BELIEVES
THEY CAN TURN
EVERYTHING
AROUND.

IF THEY
SELL THE
NARWHAL,
THEY'LL
HAVE MONEY
TO PAY THEIR
DEBTS AND
MORE.


THEY'LL
STEAL
IT, THEN
SELL IT.
TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE.

SO THE
SOUTH CAN'T
LET THEM
HAVE IT,
NO MATTER
THE COST.



SO
WILL YOU
DO IT?

...NO,
WAIT.



THAT'S WHY
THEY TOOK IT TO
THE CHURCH. TO
AVOID HAVING IT
TAKEN BY FORCE
OF ARMS.



WHAT
WILL IT
TAKE TO
CONVINCE
YOU TO
DO IT?

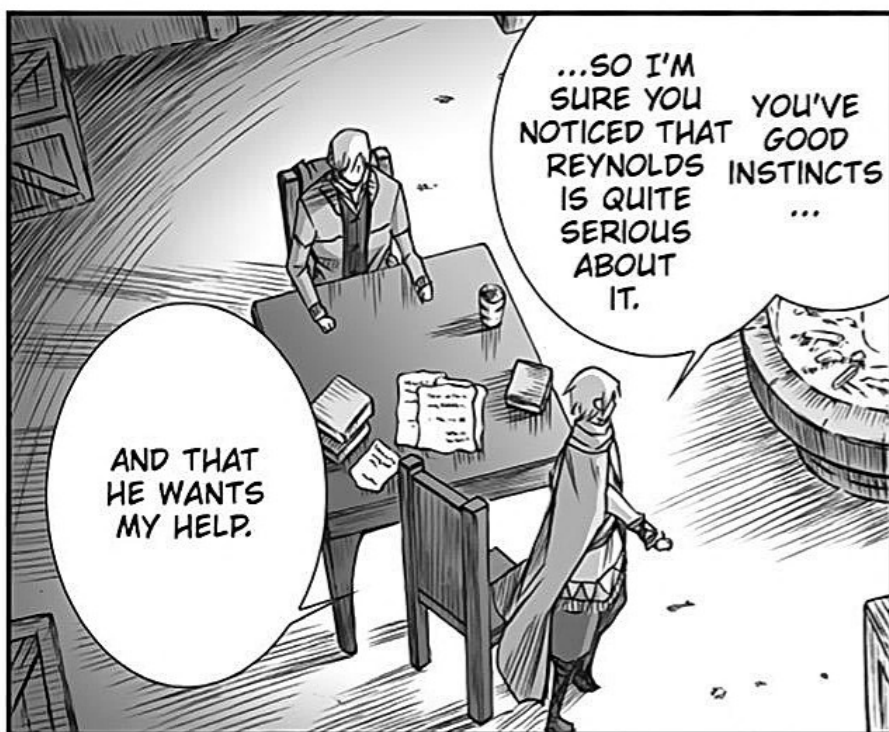
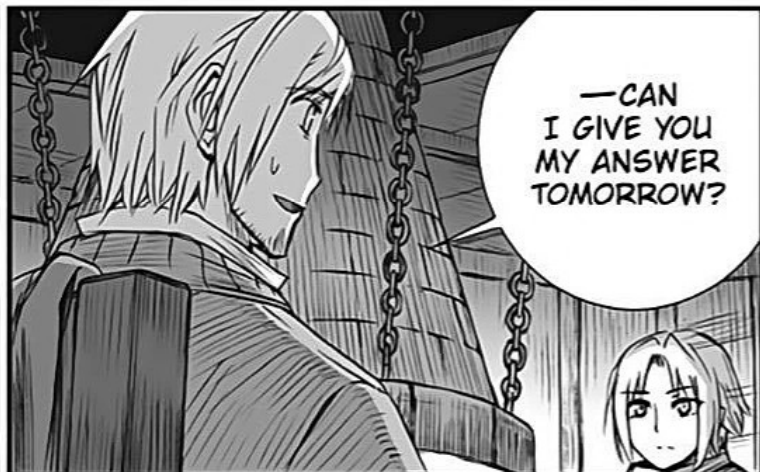


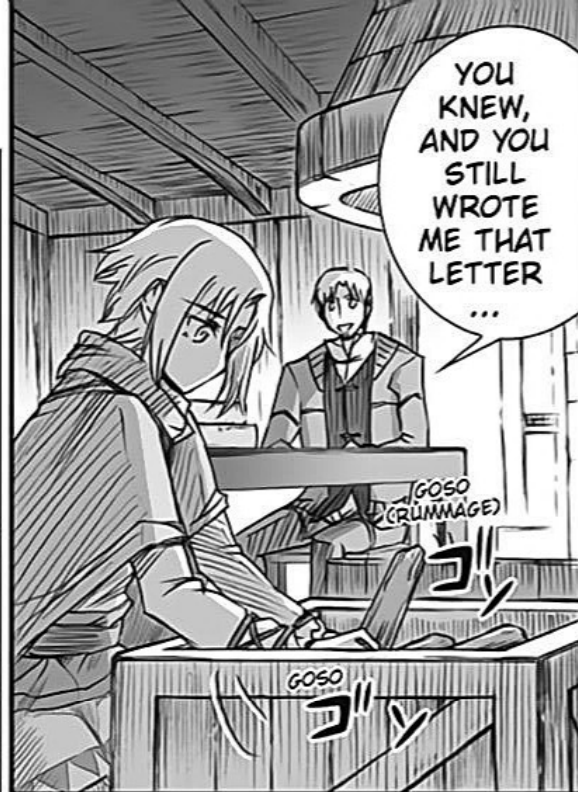
...DON'T
YOU THINK
SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE
AWAITS
YOU ON
THE OTHER
SIDE?

—IF YOU
CAN SLIP
THROUGH
THIS
PASSAGE...



SHE'S
RIGHT.







I'M
SURE
IT IS.



IT'S
QUITE AN
OPPORTUNITY,
I FEEL.

SO
WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?



HE'S
A GREAT
MERCHANT.

.....



DID
YOU SEE
KIEMAN?

SO?

HOW
WERE YOU
TREATED AT
THE GUILD
HOUSE?

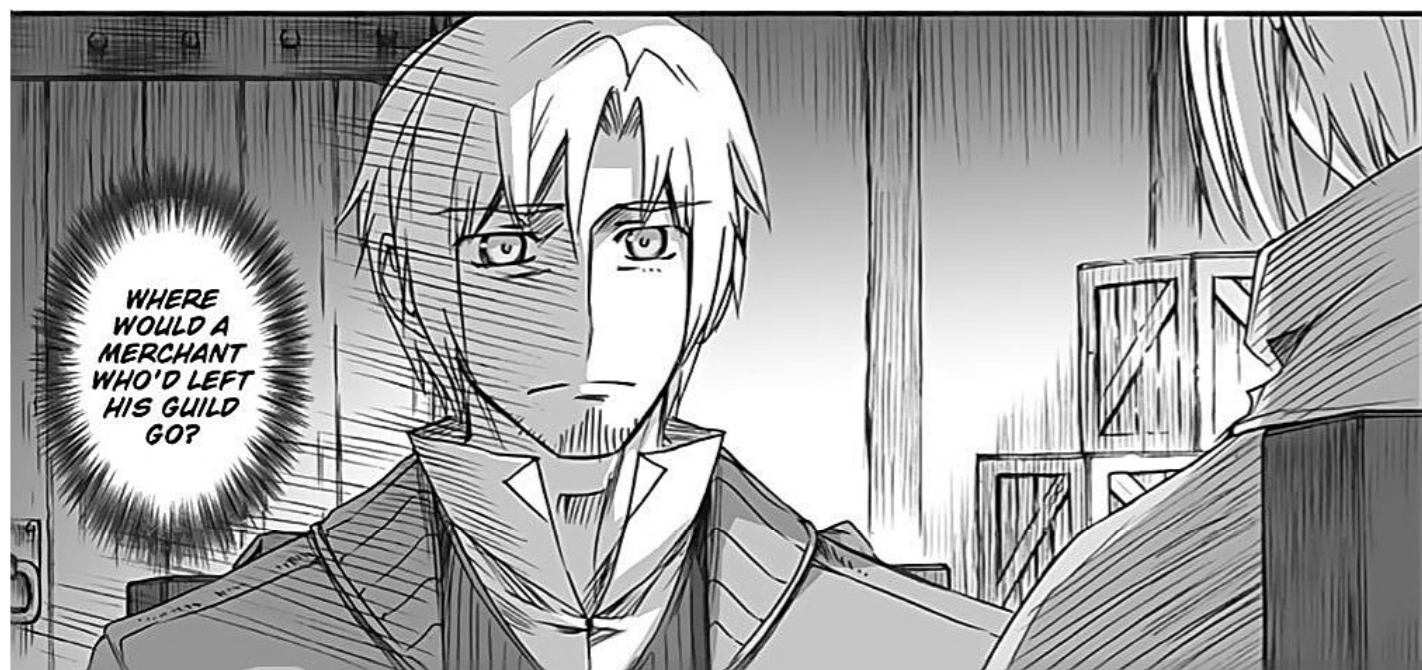
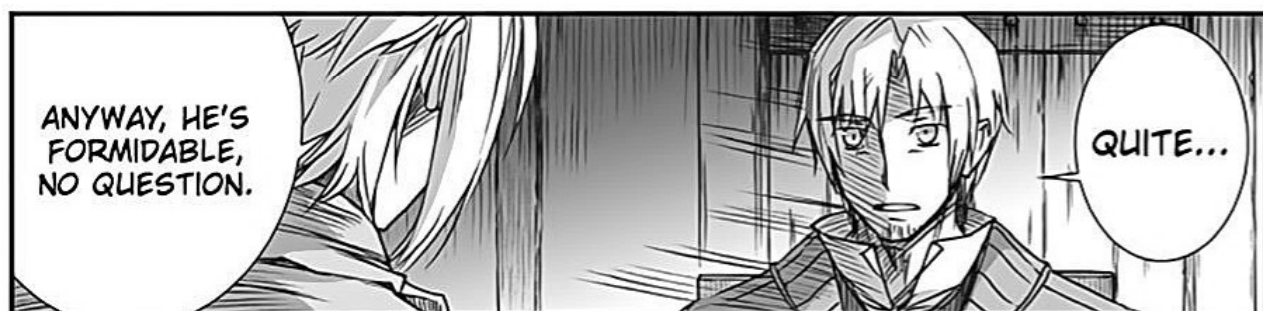


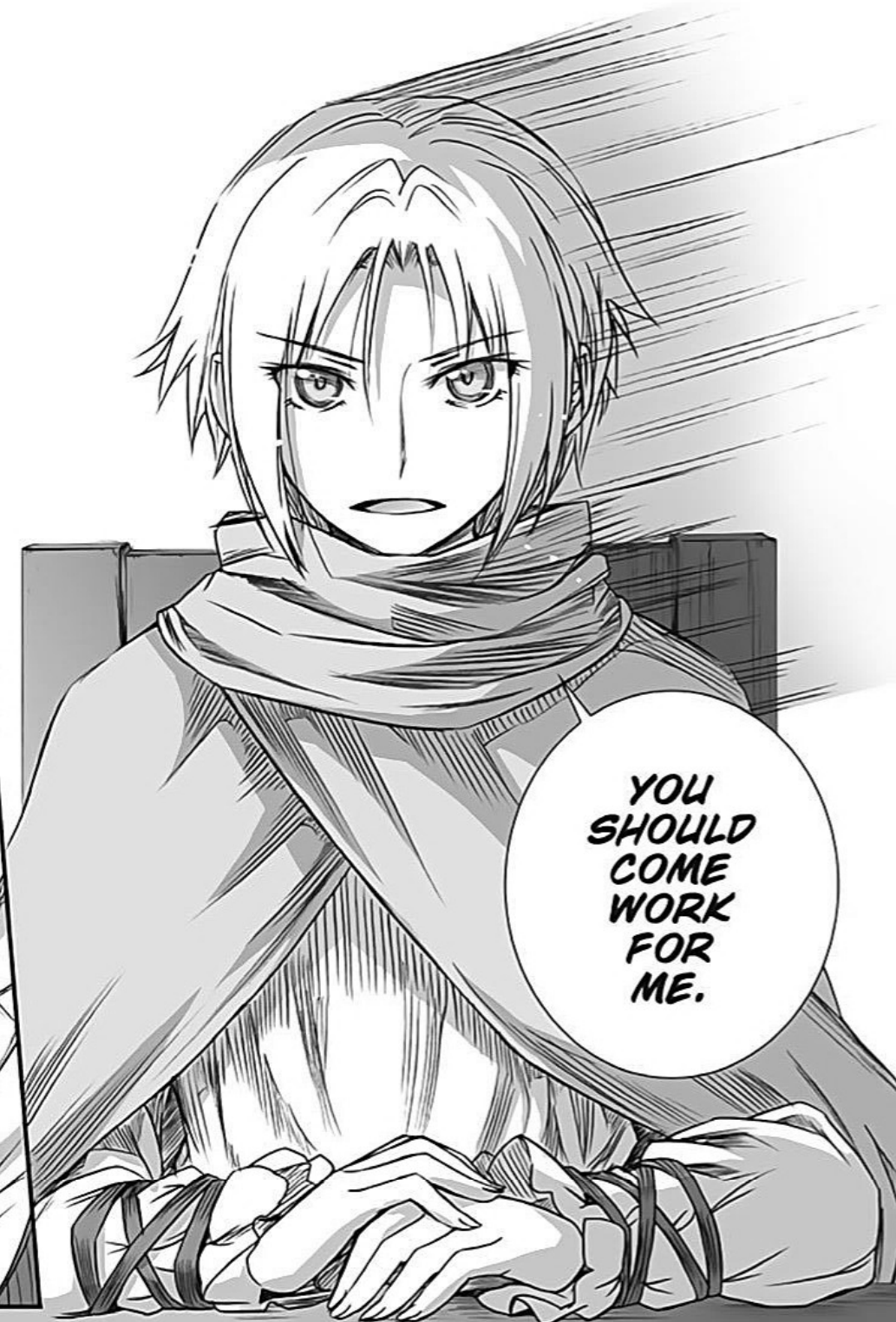
SO WHY DO
YOU MENTION
MR. KIEMAN?

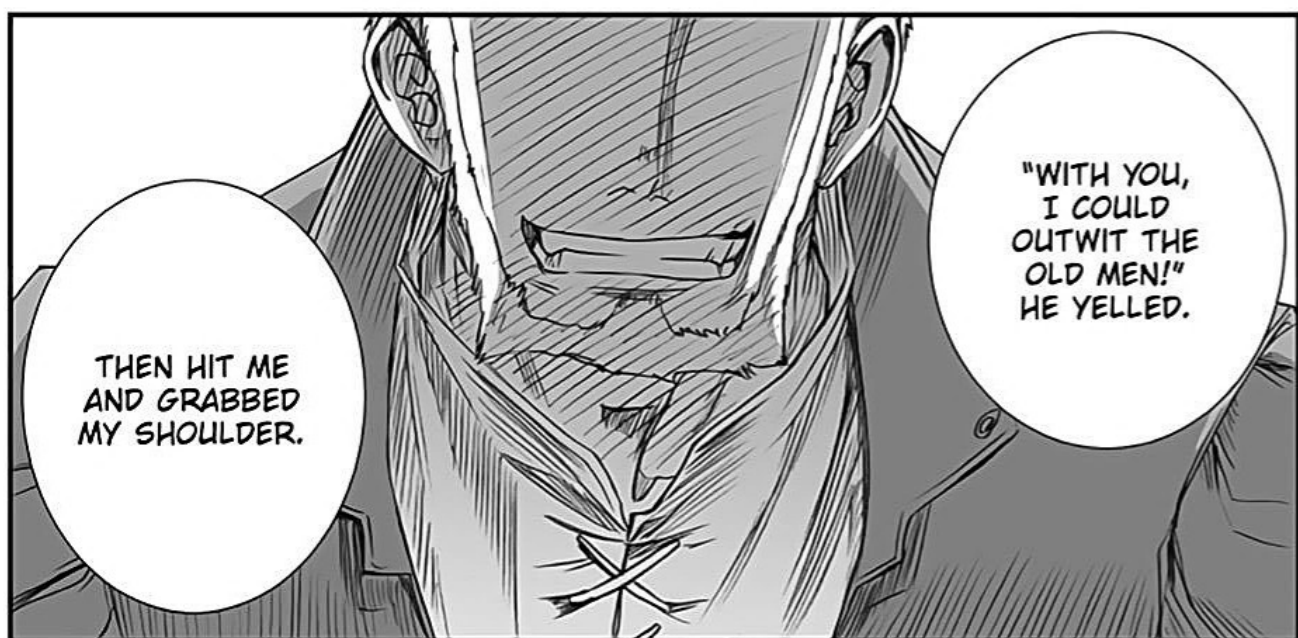
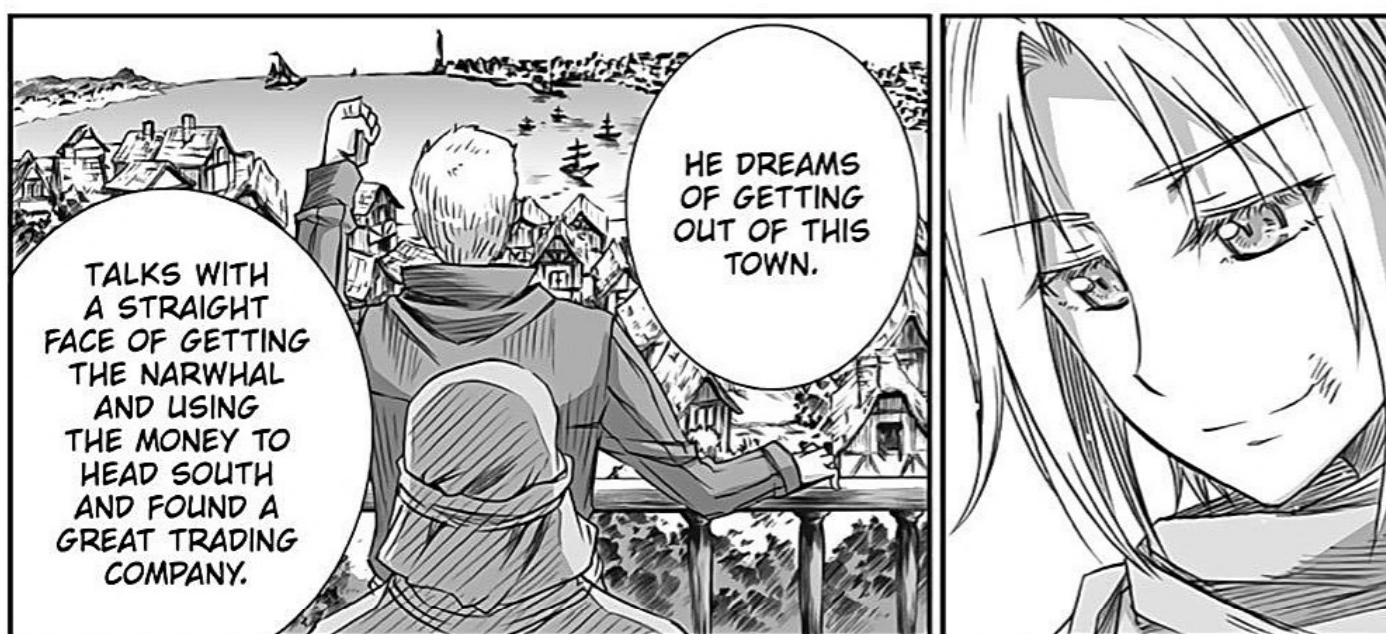
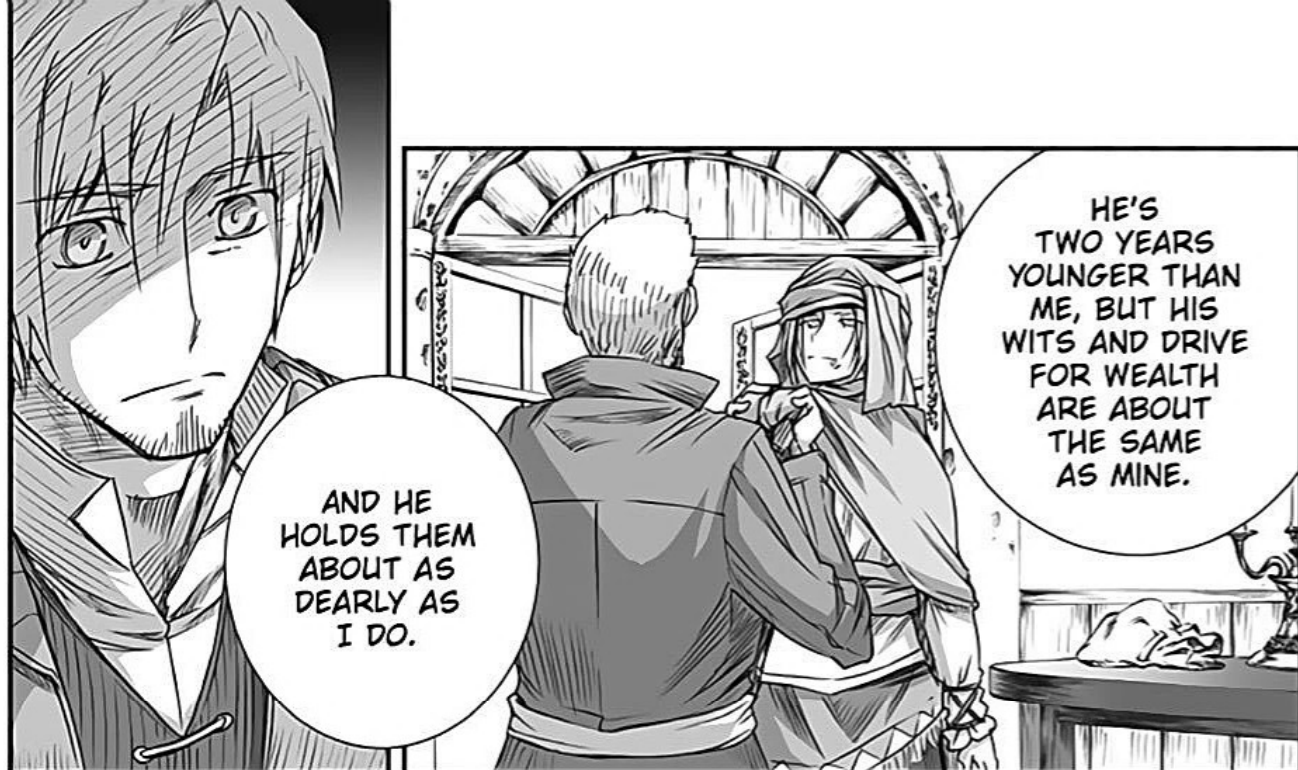


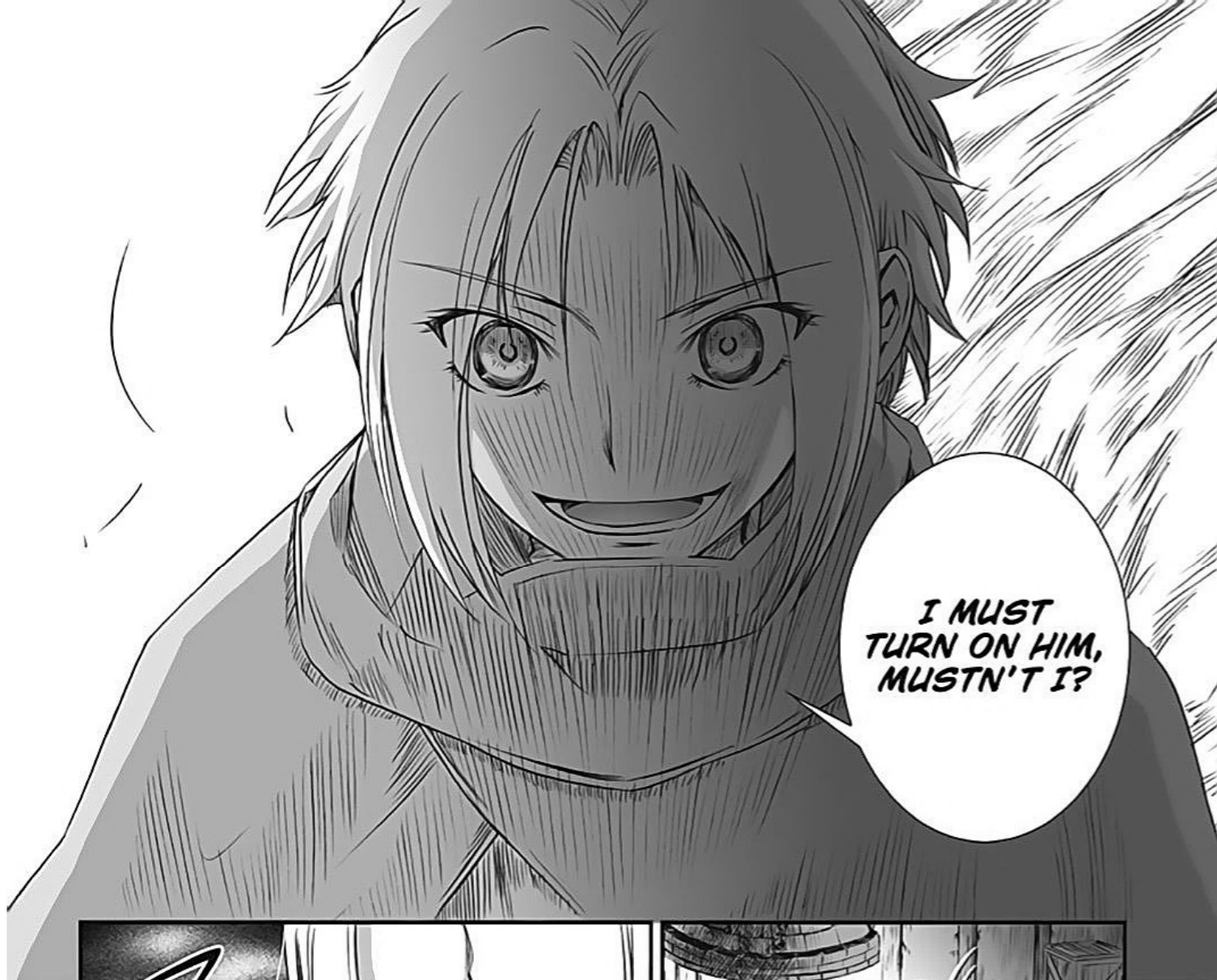
AND
HE'S THE
ONE.

OH,
INDEED.
THERE'S A
GIFTED
TRADER
IN EVERY
GUILD.









I MUST
TURN ON HIM,
MUSTN'T I?



WHEN.



GOTO
STAYS
フ...



WILL
YOU
COME
WORK
FOR
ME?

SO I'LL
ASK YOU
ONE MORE
TIME, KRAFT
LAWRENCE.

Special Thanks !!

MR. ITTOUHEI OKAMOTO, MR. TENTSU
TOI, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. A.

To be continued in Volume 10...

I turn around, and suddenly we're at Volume 9!
Koume-san's Eve is so clever and surprisingly
adorable that she makes my heart beat faster! I
can't take my eyes off the story. Hang in there!

支倉凍砂
ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume
9 going on sale! Now that
Eve's finally shown up,
I'm more sucked into the
story than ever before.
I can't wait to see how
the manga version of
the story takes shape.



JYU AYAKURA
加倉十

SPICE & WOLF ⑨

ISUNA HASEKURA

KEITO KOUME

CHARACTER DESIGN:

JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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OOKAMI TO KOUSHINRYOU Vol. 9

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